

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND
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N° 2024.

London, Saturday, November 3, 1855.

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CRYSTAL PALACE. — The ARUNDEL SOCIETY.—THIS DAY, Saturday, Nov. 3rd, an exhibition of Works of Art, the property of the Arundel Society, will be opened to the Public in the Industrial Court adjoining the Music Court. The objects exhibited will consist of a complete series of Tracings in outline from the celebrated Frescoes by Giotto in the Chapel of the Arena at Padua; a set of Drawings from the Chapel of Nicholas V. in the Vatican; a chronological series of specimens of the Art of Ivory Carving in the Early and Middle Ages; and other illustrations of Art History.

At Three o'clock on the above-mentioned day, Mr. DIGBY WATT will offer a few observations on the Collection, in the Court in which it will be exhibited.

GEORGE GROVE, Secretary.

MESSRS. PUTTICK and SIMPSON beg to announce that their SEASON FOR SALES OF LITERARY PROPERTY will commence on Tuesday, November 6. In addressing Executors and others entrusted with the disposal of Literary Estates, or Collections, the Messrs. Puttick and Simpson offer every facility for the disposal of Books, Manuscripts, Autographs, Prints, Pictures, Music, Musical Instruments, Objects of Art and Virtu, and Works connected with Literature and the Arts generally, they would suggest a Sale by Auction as the readiest and surest method of obtaining their full value, and conceive that the central situation of their premises (near St. James's Palace), their extensive connexion of more than half a century's standing, and the careful circulation of their catalogues in all parts of the world, will render them a valuable agent. European and American, are advantages that will not be unappreciated. Messrs. Puttick and Simpson will also receive Small Parcels of Books or other Literary Property, and insert them in occasional Sales with property of a kindred description, thus giving the same advantages to the possessor of a few lots as to the owner of a large collection.

The following Collections are now in preparation, for immediate Sale.

On Tuesday, November 6, and following days, a Large COLLECTION OF MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS, many Scarce and Curious Works, &c., including a Selection from the Library of the late Sir Richard Burton, of Sackett's Hill House, near Margate.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1855.

REVIEWS.

The Life and Works of Goethe: with Sketches of his Age and Contemporaries, from published and unpublished sources.

By G. H. Lewes. Two vols. D. Nutt.

A MORE faithful and lifelike biography than this we have rarely read. The image of the living man is presented with much skill and much candour. Mr. Lewes speaks often of the 'many-sidedness' of Goethe, and he shows his weak sides and dark sides as well as his great and his brilliant ones, which we all knew. If the reader does not form the same high estimate of Goethe the man as of Goethe the author, it will not be from want of ample materials for forming a judgment. His whole history is here laid open, and the facts are derived not from books only, but from the testimony of those who knew the man, and from other authentic sources of information. How much these personal inquiries and unpublished records contribute to the correctness and completeness of the whole biography may be understood from the tenor of that portion of the work which we can compare with Goethe's own autobiography. The story of these early years as narrated by Goethe in his old age is seen to be meagre, delusive, and unsatisfactory. Mr. Lewes says that the Autobiography does not misstate so much as understate. Be this as it may, we think the biographer has done right in merely using the *Warheit und Dichtung* as one of the sources whence materials might be drawn for a more truthful narrative. Goethe as he appears in the letters to the Countess von Stelberg, or in those to Kestner and Charlotte, is very different from what he wished the world to see him in his own account of the same period of his life. The false picture may have been unintentional, and the biographer charitably supposes that "the old man depicts the youth as the old man saw him, not as the youth felt and lived. The picture of youthful follies and youthful passions comes softened through the distant avenue of years. The turbulence of a youth of genius is not indeed quite forgotten, but it is hinted with stately reserve. Jupiter serenely thronged upon Olympus forgets that he was once a rebel with the Titans." In this country not much that is authentic has been published concerning him. From Mrs. Austin's pleasant work, 'Goethe and his Contemporaries,' founded on Falk's 'Reminiscences,' many readers have doubtless formed their opinion of the man, while Eckermann's 'Conversations,' as translated by Mr. Oxenford, have assisted in conveying the generally received impression of Goethe as he appeared at Weimar in the decline of life. Other sketches at various times have been given, but a complete biography has hitherto been a desideratum. Indeed until lately no life of Goethe had been published even in Germany. It is only since Mr. Lewes, about ten years ago, announced his purpose of undertaking the work that the biographies of Viehoff and of Schäfer have appeared. These works, while they have aided Mr. Lewes with details, have not interfered with the plan of his biography, or diminished its value. To materials hitherto unexamined and unused he has had access, and his own discriminating judgment and literary tact have enabled him to write a Life

better suited for English readers than any translation from German biographers would have been. To those who are not acquainted with Goethe's writings, or who know only a few of them through translations, Mr. Lewes' work will be especially acceptable. He gives careful analyses and genial criticisms of his chief works, and in this part of his book he has regard to all classes, no pains having been spared "to make the mere English reader feel at home in this strange land." In almost every case translations, literal or approximative, are given with quotations, so that no reader need be repelled by ignorance of the German language. With this accommodating spirit, and with his many special qualifications, Mr. Lewes has produced a Life of Goethe which must take a standard place in English biographical literature. To the fidelity of the biography we have already borne testimony. As to Goethe's writings, it will be the reader's own fault if a better understanding and appreciation of them are not gained by the author's comments and criticisms. The elucidations are not confined to Goethe's works. Of the life and labours of many of his contemporaries welcome notices are introduced; and one chapter, entitled 'A Survey of German Literature,' is a masterly sketch, in itself complete and admirable, and deserving the careful perusal of the literary student. With regard to the style of the work, we shall only say that there are fewer peculiarities and eccentricities than we expected, more common sense and less of metaphysics than might have been looked for in so thorough a disciple of the Positive School of Philosophy.

Mr. Lewes divides the biography into seven books, with somewhat fanciful headings. Book 1 is entitled, *The Child is Father to the Man*; 2. *Student Days*; 3. *Sturm und Drang* (*Storm and Stress*); 4. *The Genialisch Period in Weimar*; 5. *Crystals*; 6. *Friendship with Schiller*; 7. *Sunset*. The first book tells of his ancestry, parentage, and birth, August 28, 1749, at Frankfurt-on-the-Main; his father a respected citizen, his mother, Katharina Textor, a notable and lovable woman. It tells of his precocity as a child, his school days, and early experience of life. The second book carries us over his student life at Leipzig and at Strasburg, from 1765 to 1771. The *Storm and Stress* period includes four years, when his passions were strong, his intellect ripening, and his first works were published. Book the fourth commences his residence at Weimar, in 1775, beyond which we must not carry our present notice of his history. Mr. Lewes minglesthe narrative of the life with his analyses of the writings of Goethe, apologising for the length of the latter by the remark, that "in the life of a great captain much space is necessarily occupied by his campaigns." The analogy does not hold good, as the writings of a man may have little connexion with his personal history; but in a large proportion of Goethe's works, and these the most peculiar and powerful in their genius and art, the writhings are the impasioned expressions of the author's own experiences in life. 'Werther,' in all but the outward machinery of the story, and partly in that, is a transcript of Goethe's soul; and many of his other works, less generally known, are equally drawn from his own experience. For these, the works which gained for him his early and wide popularity, he was little indebted to books, though his studies were many and various. Love was his inspiration,

and the scenes and adventures into which love carried him supplied his materials. It will be seen from the following narrative, how his best early works arose out of, and were connected with, the experience of the heart rather than the cultivation of the mind.

A large part of the story of Goethe's private life is occupied with the accounts of his successive love affairs, of some of the most notable of which we may here bring together some brief notices. Speaking of the studies and pursuits of his early life, Mr. Lewes says, "he was excessively impressionable; caught the impulse from every surrounding influence, and was thus never constant to one thing, because this susceptibility was connected with an impatience which soon made him weary." How susceptible and how fickle he was in his affections, the reader of the biography will soon learn:—

"He was not quite fifteen, when Gretchen, the sister of one of his disreputable companions, first agitated his imagination with her charms. The story is told in a rambling way in the *Autobiography*, and may here be very briefly dismissed. He had often turned his poetical talents to *practical* purposes, namely, writing wedding and funeral verses, the produce of which went in joyous feasting. He was thus almost daily thrown with Gretchen; but she, though kind, treated him as a child, and never permitted the slightest familiarity. A merry life they led, in picnics and pleasure bouts; and the coronation of the Kaiser Joseph II. (so circumstantially narrated by him) was the occasion of increased festivity. * * * Some of the joyous companions had been guilty of nefarious practices, such as forgeries of documents. His friend and Gretchen were involved in the accusation, though falsely. Wolfgang had to undergo a severe investigation, which, as he was perfectly innocent, did not much afflict him; but an affliction came out of the investigation, for Gretchen in her deposition concerning him said, 'I will not deny that I have often seen him, and seen him with pleasure, but I treated him as a child, and my affection for him was merely that of a sister.' His exasperation may be imagined. A boy aspiring to the dignity of manhood knows few things more galling than to be treated as a boy by the girl whom he has honoured with his homage. He suffered greatly at this destruction of his romance: nightly was his pillow wet with tears; food became repugnant to him; life had no more an object."

His second inamorata was the daughter of the keeper of the inn where he used to dine when a student at Leipsic:—

"You must imagine host and hostess dining at the table, while their charming daughter, who had cooked or helped to cook the dinner, brought them the wine. This daughter was the Anna Katharina, by intimates called Käthchen, and by Goethe, in the *'Autobiography'*, designated as Amchen and Annette. Her portrait, still extant, is very pleasing. She was then nineteen, lively, and loving; how could she be insensible to the love of this glorious youth, in all the fervour of genius, and with all the attractions of beauty? They saw each other daily, not only at dinner but in the evenings, when he accompanied the piano of her brother by a feeble performance on the flute. They also got up private theatricals, in which Goethe and Käthchen played the lovers. * * *

"Had Käthchen coquetted with him, keeping him in the exquisite pain of suspense, she would have been happier; but as he said in his little poem 'Der Wahre Genius,' 'she is perfect, and her only fault is—that she loves me':

"Sie ist vollkommen, und sie fehlet
Darin allein dass sie mich liebt."

He teased her with trifles and idle suspicions; was jealous without cause, convinced without reason; plagued her with fantastic quarrels, till at last her endurance was exhausted, and her love was washed away in tears. No sooner was he aware of this,

than he repented, and tried to recover the jewel which, like a prodigal, he had cast away. In vain. He was in despair, and tried in dissipation to forget his grief. A better issue was poetry. Several of his lyrics bore the burden of this experience; and one entire play, or pastoral, is devoted to a poetical representation of these lovers' quarrels: this is 'Die Laune des Verliebten,' which is very curious as the earliest extant work of the great poet, and as the earliest specimen of his tendency to turn experience into song."

This affair having blown over, Käthchen being married to a Dr. Kanne, and Goethe having given vent to his sorrow in poetry, we next find his heart engaged to the daughter of his dancing-master at Strasburg, a glimpse of an intervening passion, however, occurring in the previous year:—

"The trace of a slight love affair, during this summer of 1769, has been discovered by Viehoff. Charity Meixner, of Worms, is not mentioned in the 'Autobiography,' it is true; but neither is Oeser's daughter Frederika, for whom he had a very lively friendship, which probably her satirical tendency kept from warming into love. Charity was the daughter of a merchant, and Viehoff has seen two letters to her which leave no doubt of the warmth of Goethe's feelings for the young poetess. But that heart, which 'so readily loves and so easily forgets,' wandered from Charity, as it wandered from others; and she buried his inconstancy in a 'copy of verses' and a rich husband."

The Strasburg affair, as narrated by Mr. Lewes, we command to the notice of playwrights, as affording materials for a capital comedy, or a tragic ending might be given to the piece, if thought preferable. We quote the opening of the story:—

"The dancing-master, a dry, precise, but amiable Frenchman, had two daughters, who assisted him at his lessons, acting both as partners and correctors. Two pretty girls, both under twenty, charming with French vivacity and coquetry, could not fail to interest the young poet; nor could the graceful, handsome youth fail to create an impression on two girls whose lives were somewhat lone-some. Symptoms of this interest very soon showed themselves. The misfortune was that the state of their feelings made what dramatists call 'a situation.' Goethe's heart inclined towards Emilia, who loved another; while that of Lucinda, the elder sister, was bestowed upon him."

Of the personal appearance of Goethe at this period of his life, Mr. Lewes gives this picture:—

"He reached Strasburg on the 2nd April, 1770. He was now turned twenty, and a more magnificent youth never perhaps entered the Strasburg gates. Long before he was celebrated, he was likened to an Apollo: when he entered a restaurant, the people laid down their knives and forks to stare at him. Pictures and busts give a very feeble indication of that which was most striking in his appearance; they only give the cut of feature, not the play of feature; nor are they very accurate even in mere form. The features were large and liberally cut, as in the fine-sweeping lines of Greek Art. The brow lofty and massive, from beneath which shone large lustrous brown eyes of marvellous beauty, their pupils being of almost unexampled size; the slightly aquiline nose was large and finely cut; the mouth full, with a short arched upper lip, very expressive; the chin and jaw boldly proportioned, and the head resting on a fine muscular neck:—details which are, after all, but the inventory of his appearance, and give no clear image of it. In stature he was rather above the middle size; but although not really tall, he had the aspect of a tall man, and is usually so described, because his presence was very imposing. His frame was strong, muscular, yet sensitive. Dante says this contrast is in the nature of things, for—

'Quanta la cosa è più perfetta,
Più senta 'l bene, e co'l doglienza.'

Excelling in all active sports, he was almost a barometer in sensitiveness to atmospheric influences."

The next attachment was one of a more serious kind, and which is more deeply connected with Goethe's reputation both as a man and an author:—

"Of all the women who enjoyed the distinction of Goethe's love, none seemed to me so fascinating as Frederika. Her idyllic presence is familiar to every lover of German literature, through the charming episode of the 'Autobiography,' over which the poet lingered with peculiar delight. The secretary is now living to whom this part of the 'Autobiography' was dictated, and he remembers vividly how much affected Goethe seemed to be as these scenes revisited memory. He dictated walking up and down the room, with his hands behind him; but at this episode he often stopped in his walk, and paused in the dictation; then after a long silence, followed by a deep sigh, he continued the narrative in a lower tone."

The whole story of Frederika, as told by Mr. Lewes, is full of romantic interest, but we can only refer to the commencement of the affair, and to its termination:—

"Weyland, a fellow boarder, had often spoken of a clergyman who, with his wife and two amiable daughters, lived near Drusenheim, a village about sixteen miles from Strasburg. Early in October, 1770, Weyland proposed to his friend to accompany him on a visit to the worthy pastor. * * *

"He returned to Strasburg, if not a formally betrothed, yet an accepted lover. As such the family and friends seem to have regarded him. Probably no betrothal took place, on account of his youth, and the necessity of obtaining his father's consent. His muse, lately silent, now found voice again, and several of the poems Frederika inspired are to be read in his published works. The whole have been reprinted in the 'Sessenheimer Liederbuch'; and in Viehoff's 'Goethe Erläutert.'

In August, 1771, Goethe quitted Strasburg, having formally taken leave of Frederika. "He had not ceased to love," says Mr. Lewes, "though he already felt she never would be his." From his home at Frankfurt he wrote to Frederika. Her answer, happily for Goethe, is not preserved, but the purport of it may be gathered from his own confession:—

"'Frederika's answer,' he says, 'to the letter in which I had bidden her adieu, tore my heart. I now, for the first time, became aware of her bereavement, and saw no possibility of alleviating it. She was ever in my thoughts; I felt that she was wanting to me; and, worst of all, I could not forgive myself! Gretchen had been taken from me; Annchen had left me; but now, for the first time, I was guilty; I had wounded, to its very depths, one of the most beautiful and tender of hearts. And that period of gloomy repentance, bereft of the love which had so invigorated me, was agonizing, insupportable. But man will live; and hence I took a sincere interest in others, seeking to disentangle their embarrassments, and to unite those about to part, that they might not feel what I felt. Hence I got the name of the 'Confidant,' and also, on account of my wanderings, I was named the 'Wanderer.'"

The reader may like to know what the biographer's judgment of Goethe's conduct is, and will be glad to find Mr. Lewes speaking as plainly as could be expected in one who is too apt in other parts of the work to extenuate fault on the score of genius:—

"Although we have no exact knowledge of the circumstances, from the height of which to judge his conduct, the question must be put, Why did he not marry Frederika? It is a question often raised, and as often sophistically answered. He is by one party angrily condemned, and disingenuously absolved by another. But he himself acknowledged

his fault. He himself never put forth any excuse. He does not hint at disparity of station, he does not say there were objections from his parents. He makes no excuse, but confesses the wrong, and blames himself without sophistication. Yet the excuses he would not suggest, partisans have been eager to suggest for him. They have sought far and wide in the gutters of scandal for materials of defence. One gets up a story about Frederika being seduced by a Catholic priest; whence it is argued that Goethe could not be expected to marry one so frail; whence also it follows, by way of counterblast, that it was his desertion which caused her to fall. The basis of fact on which this lie is reared (there is usually some basis even for the wildest lies), is that Frederika brought up the orphan child of her sister Salome."

It is hardly fair in Mr. Lewes to give currency to rumours which he himself says were raked out of the gutters of scandal. Neither is it right to repeat the excuse made by Pfeiffer, that Goethe was influenced by his friend Merck, who is supposed to have played the part assigned to Carlos in *Clavigo*, who exclaims—"Marry! what, marry just at the time when life opens to you! To coop yourself at home before you have gone over half your wanderings or accomplished half your conquests! That you love the girl is natural; that you promised her marriage was the act of a fool; but to keep your promise would be the act of a madman." Hereupon Pfeiffer coolly remarks, "There is more truth than levity in these words. It is at any rate by no means evident to me that infidelity to his genius would not have been a greater crime than infidelity to his mistress." "A comfortable code," adds Mr. Lewes, "for genius lax in its morals, but a code which only moral laxity on the one hand, or literary cant on the other, can pretend to uphold."

This is very well, but is spoiled by what is afterwards added:—

"I do not think his love for Frederika was only a passing fancy, such as so often moves the feelings of youth without ever deepening into serious thoughts of marriage. It was a passion, and she was worthy of it. But a passion deep enough to make marriage desirable, it was not; and there were many reasons why it should not be. One of these reasons has already been suggested, (her rustic appearance.) Another is suggested in the 'Wanderer's Sturzfall,' and the passage from 'Clavigo' just quoted. He had been charmed by the idyllic grace of this girl; intimacy only strengthened his perception of her good qualities; but intimacy also helped to cool his poetic passion, and made him dimly feel it impossible to blend his many-sided existence with hers. Marriage was a phantom from which he shrunk. Eros, with folded wings and broken bow, was to him an image of fear. The choice lay between a quiet domestic life, and the career which ambition opened. His decision could not long be doubtful."

Mr. Lewes then indulges in a disquisition about genius and morality, containing remarks of ingenuity and weight, but leaving Goethe's conduct as it was. His desertion of Frederika was unquestionably as dishonourable as it was unfortunate for the poet's own welfare. It was the turning point of his personal life, which from this time, with a sort of retributive justice, displays a course of disorder, ending with his marrying a woman in every way inferior to Frederika, and who had for fifteen years lived with him as his mistress. But we must keep to the order of this domestic portion of the biography. The preparation of his wild dramatic romance, 'Götz von Berlichingen,' occupied his thoughts. Ambition displaced love as the ruling passion for a time. But a new and more exciting

adventure befel him, when, "in the spring of 1772 he arrived at Wetzlar, with 'Götz' in his portfolio, and in his head many wild, unruly thoughts." It was at Wetzlar that he fell in love with Charlotte, and lived through the experience that is recorded in 'The Sorrows of Werther.' The story is too familiar to admit of our dwelling on it, but we may say that the plain narrative of the events on which the romance is founded is given with fidelity by the biographer. The facts and form of the story of Werther, with its tragic dénouement, record the love and fate of Jerusalem, secretary to the Brunswick Legation, son of the venerable abbot of Riddagshausen. The soul of the romance, the record of the workings of Werther's spirit, till his melancholy suicide, are drawn from Goethe's own feelings towards Charlotte Buff. We quote part of Mr. Lewes' account of their attachment:—

"She was only sixteen, yet good sense, housewifely aptitude, and patient courage, carried her successfully through this task. She had for two years been betrothed to Kestner, secretary to the Hanoverian legation, then aged four-and-twenty: a quiet, orderly, formal, rational, cultivated man, possessing great magnanimity, as the correspondence proves, and a dignity which is nowise represented in the Albert of 'Werther,' from whom we must be careful to distinguish him, in spite of the obvious identity of position. * * *

"To judge from her portrait, Lotte must, in her way, have been a charming creature: not intellectually cultivated, not poetical,—above all, not the sentimental girl we have in 'Werther,' but a serene, calm, joyous, open-hearted German maiden, an excellent housewife, and a priceless manager. Goethe at once fell in love with her. * * *

"Confident in the honour of his friend and the truth of his mistress, Kestner never spoiled the relation by a hint of jealousy. Goethe was constantly in Lotte's house, where his arrival was a jubilee to the children, who seized hold of him, as children always take loving possession of those who are indulgent to them, and forced him to tell them stories. It is a pleasant sight to see Goethe with children; he always shows such hearty fondness for them; and these brothers and sisters of Lotte were doubly endeared to him because they belonged to her. * * *

"Had Goethe been the sentimental Werther he has represented, he would never have had the strength of will to tear himself from such a position. He would have blown his brains out, as Werther did. On the other hand, note what a worthy figure is this of Kestner, compared with the cold Albert of the novel. A less generous nature would have rejoiced in the absence of a rival, and forgotten, in its joy, the loss of a friend. But Kestner, who not only knew his friend was his rival,—and such a rival, that doubts crossed him whether this magnificent youth were not really more capable of rendering Lotte happy than he himself was,—grieved for the absence of his friend!"

When Goethe heard of the death of Jerusalem, he thus wrote to Kestner:—

"The unhappy Jerusalem! The news was shocking, and unexpected to me; it was horrible to have this news as an accompaniment to the pleasantest gift of love. The unfortunate man! But the devil, that is, the infamous men who enjoy nothing but the chaff of vanity, and have the lust of idolatry in their hearts, and preach idolatry, and cramp healthy nature, and overstrain and ruin the faculties, are guilty of this misery, of our misery. If the cursed person is not guilty, God forgive me that I wish he may break his neck like Eli. The poor young man!"

This was in 1772; in 1774 he set to work to make a romance out of the story, and produced 'Werther.' Many of the details he took from a long letter received from Kestner soon after the catastrophe:—

"Although Werther is not Goethe, there is one part of Goethe living in Werther. This is visible in the incidents and language as well as in the character. It is the part we see reappearing under the various masks of Weislingen, Clavigo, Faust, Fernando, Edward, Meister, and Tasso, which no critic will call the same lay figure variously draped, but which every critic must see belong to one and the same genus: men of strong desires and weak volitions, wavering impressionable natures unable to attain self-mastery."

Carlyle, in his 'Miscellanies,' has given the best account yet written of this wonderful book, the history of which will be further understood from the narrative of Mr. Lewes, with the extracts of the recently published letters to Kestner and Charlotte:—

"Perhaps there never was a fiction which so startled and enraptured the world. Men of all kinds and classes were moved by it. It was the companion of Napoleon, when in Egypt; it penetrated into China. To convey in a sentence its wondrous popularity, we may state that in Germany it became a people's book, hawked about the streets, printed on miserable paper, like an ancient ballad; and in the Chinese empire, Charlotte and Werther were modelled in porcelain."

In the same year that 'Werther' was published Goethe first met Prince Karl August of Weimar, who had read 'Götz,' and sought the acquaintance of the author. The friendship then commenced which directed the course of the greater portion of Goethe's life. But other experiences and adventures have first to be recorded. Lotte is married to Kestner, and becomes the mother of a family. Goethe is at Frankfurt, and has become renowned as an author. He is not melancholy in his separation from Lotte. In a merry circle the figure appears of a new love, Anna Sybilla Münch:—

"Hopes of a marriage rose not only in her breast, but in the breasts of his parents, who, having lost by marriage their daughter Cornelia, greatly wished to see a daughter-in-law in their house. They talked over the matter; seem to have alluded to it also to Anna herself; and frequently joked their son at table on the expected event. It was thought that he might first make his long-talked-of journey to Italy, and marry on his return. At no time prone to marriage, he had not in this instance the impulse of passion. He admired Anna, but he felt no passion for her; and even Italy, so long desired, was now less attractive to him than Germany, where he was beginning to feel himself a man of consequence, and where the notable men of the day eagerly sought his acquaintance."

A married woman is the next on the list:—

"Maximiliane Laroche had recently married Brentano, a Frankfurt merchant, a widower with five children, and many years her senior. Goethe became intimate at their house; and as Merck writes, 'il joue avec les enfants et accompagne le clavecin de madame avec la basse. M. Brentano, quoique assez jaloux pour un Italien, l'aime et veut absolument qu'il fréquente la maison.' The husband wanted his presence, often as an umpire in the disputes with his wife; and the wife, also, chose him umpire in her disputes with her husband; nay, Merck hints, 'il a la petite Madame Brentano à consoler sur l'odeur de l'huile, du fromage, et des manières de son mari.' So passed autumn and winter, in a tender relation, such as in those days was thought blameless enough, but such as modern writers cannot believe to have been so blameless."

In the series of erotic dissolving views next appears Lili, the woman whom, according to his statement to Eckermann, he loved more than any other. "She was the first, and I can also add she is the last, I truly loved; for all the inclinations which have since agitated my heart were superficial and trivial in comparison:—"

"Anna Elizabeth Schönemann, immortalized as Lili, was the daughter of a great banker in Frankfurt, who lived in the splendid style of merchant princes. She was sixteen when Goethe first fell in love with her. The age is significant. It was somewhat the age of Frederika, Lotte, Anna Sybilla, and Maximiliane. An age when girlhood has charms of grace and person, of beauty and freshness, which even those will not deny who profoundly feel the superiority of a developed woman. There is poetry in this age; but there is no depth, no fulness of character. Imagine the wide-sweeping mind of the author of 'Götz,' 'Faust,' 'Prometheus,' 'The Wandering Jew,' 'Mahomet,' in companionship with the mind of a girl of sixteen!"

The attachment became mutual, but difficulties on the part of her family conspired with his own repugnance to matrimony to break off the match after it had been resolved on between the lovers. "The nearer marriage seemed, the more impracticable it appeared. To Goethe, after the first flush of joy had subsided, the idea of marriage was in itself enough to make him uneasy, and to sharpen his sense of the disparity in station. The arrival of the two Counts Stolberg, and their proposal that he should accompany them in a tour through Switzerland, gave an excuse for freeing himself from Lili, 'as an experiment to try whether he could renounce her.'" Besides his Swiss journey, he went to visit Karl August at Weimar, and received pressing invitations to settle there. At length, after struggles between love and prudence, the betrothal was cancelled, and Goethe, left to see more of the world, and attracted by the flattering prospects of a court residence, repaired to Weimar, not without vehement opposition from his father, a plain Frankfurt citizen, who disliked the position of dependence on princes, of which the recent experience of Voltaire with Frederick the Great was an instructive warning.

The continuation of these personal attachments; the various studies and pursuits of Goethe, literary, artistic, and scientific; the leading incidents of his public life; and some account of his works, we reserve for another notice.

Minnesota and the Far West. By Laurence Oliphant, Esq. Blackwood and Sons. MR. OLIPHANT'S book on 'The Russian Shores of the Black Sea' has gained for him a reputation which will secure public attention to any publication from his pen. In this volume he gives a report of recent travels in a portion of North America as yet little known to Europeans. After a residence of some months in Canada, Mr. Oliphant set out, in the early part of the autumn of last year, to visit the remote regions of the Far West. He commenced his journey from Toronto, in company with Lord Bury, and the party was increased by two other Englishmen, as they advanced towards the boundaries of civilization, and entered into the wild forest lands near the great American lakes. The route was from Toronto to Lake Simcoe, and the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron, to the Sault Ste. Marie, at the eastern extremity of Lake Superior; by steamer to Fond du Lac, touching at various points on the southern shore of the lake, and then through Minnesota till the stream of the Mississippi was gained, down which they proceeded till on the parallel of the southern shore of Lake Michigan, when the route was across the prairies to Chicago, and by Detroit to the Falls of Niagara, when the journal terminates. Of the ordinary tra-

velling by rail and by boat abundant accounts are given in all books of American travel, but the author's experience of canoe voyaging presents some features of more unusual interest. One of the first experiments was made at Sault Ste. Marie, where our travellers halted a while before entering the wilder districts:-

"One day we took a bark canoe for the purpose of shooting the rapids, and also in the hope of producing, for the benefit of our American friends, a basket containing a few more trout than those which had been exhibited as a sample of a good day's fishing. Crossing to the English side, we reached a voyageur's cottage at the foot of the rapids, just in time to escape a heavy thunder-shower, and spent a pleasant half-hour over our pipes with him, his Indian wife, and half-breed family, who were engaged in making miniature bark canoes, and embroidering moose-skin for the American market. He was proud of being an English subject, but at the same time congratulated himself upon his proximity to the Yankees, as affording better sources of profit to him in every way than Canadians.

"We were more than an hour forcing our canoe up the rapids, which are nearly a mile in length; and it was only by dint of great exertion, and taking advantage of every backwater, that we managed to creep along the banks of the little islands with which the river is dotted. It was my first experience of the sort, and unless I had actually witnessed it, I certainly should not have considered feasible the ascent, in a boat, of a torrent which was so rapid that it would have been impossible for a man to stem it on foot. Indeed, nothing but the most dexterous punting on the part of our experienced boatmen, would have enabled us to succeed.

"When we reached the head of the rapid we tried a few casts, and caught two or three diminutive trout, with which the boatmen were so delighted, and complimented us so highly on our skill, that, judging by its unsatisfactory results, we determined that, as it was more exciting to shoot the rapids of the Sault Ste. Marie than to fish them, we would no longer delay that novel pastime. Accordingly, seating ourselves steadily at the bottom of our frail bark, we allowed it to be sucked into the foaming waters, a voyageur at each end of the canoe, with quick eye and strong arm, prepared to steer us safely upon a voyage which certainly, to the uninitiated, did not seem altogether devoid of peril. The surface of the river, over an extent of at least a mile square, presents at this point one unbroken sheet of foam. The waves are so high that they dash into the canoe, which would inevitably be upset if, by bad steering, it were allowed (in nautical language) to get into the trough of the sea. We were just beginning to acquire a fearful velocity, when, as if to harmonise with the tumult of waters amid which we were being so wildly tossed, vivid flashes of lightning burst forth from the black clouds, followed by loud peals of thunder, and rendered the descent of these rapids, which is always exciting, grand, and almost appalling. In about four minutes we were in smooth water again, having in that period accomplished a distance which it had taken us an hour to traverse on our upward course."

"It requires great coolness and experience to steer a canoe down these rapids; and a short time before our arrival, two Americans had ventured to descend them without boatmen, and were consequently upset. As the story was reported to us, one of them owed his salvation to a singular coincidence. As the accident took place immediately opposite the town, many of the inhabitants were attracted to the bank of the river to watch the struggles of the unfortunate men, thinking any attempt at a rescue would be hopeless. Suddenly, however, a person appeared rushing towards the group, frantic with excitement. 'Save the man with the red hair!' he vehemently shouted; and the exertions which were made in consequence of his earnest appeals proved successful, and the red-haired individual, in an exhausted condition, was

safely landed. 'He owes me eighteen dollars,' said his rescuer, drawing a long breath and looking approvingly on his assistants. The red-haired man's friend had not a creditor at the Sault, and, in default of a competing claim, was allowed to pay his debt to nature. 'And I'll tell you what it is, stranger,' said the narrator of the foregoing incident, complacently drawing a moral therefrom,—'a man'll never know how necessary he is to society if he don't make his life valuable to his friends as well as to his-self.'

On the way to Fond du Lac, the State of Wisconsin was partially visited, and Mr. Olyphant has recorded as many facts as he could learn for the benefit of those interested in emigration. The rapid progress of this state is unprecedented, even in the annals of the United States. "In 1838 the population, according to the State enumerations, was only 18,130; in 1850, the census returned the population as 305,391. I saw the Governor of the State in Washington," says Mr. Olyphant, "in 1854, and he assured me that there were upwards of 500,000 inhabitants in Wisconsin, who had all emigrated there within the last fifteen years." The first impressions of Minnesota are thus recorded:-

"We were now far beyond the utmost limits of White Settlement, in a part of the country very little traversed even by Indians. In the whole course of our voyage up the St. Louis, we only saw one wigwam after leaving Fond du Lac. There was not much variety in our life. Sometimes it rained hard all day, but we pressed pertinaciously on, forcing our canoes against the swollen current. Our aspect upon these occasions would have astonished a quiet party of Indians not a little, as, with pipes in our mouths and paddles in our hands, we struggled furiously with the stream, sometimes carried back against the rocks, at others hanging for a moment or two in the middle of the rapid, unable to advance a yard, and then, with a vigorous spurt, shoved our light bark into the smooth water beyond; then paddling with measured stroke to the melodious chants of the voyageurs, and joining lustily in the chorus of them all, but more especially of the one which begins :-

Deux canards blancs
S'en vont baïnçants,
En roulant ma boule;
Le fils du roi s'en va chassant,
Roulez, roulons, ma boule roulons.

Chorus.
En roulant ma boule, roulons,
En roulant ma boule."

And which goes on, throughout an interminable number of verses, to recount the history and adventures of the ducks and the prince, with its cheery chorus ever recurring. Then we would wake up the slumbering echoes of these old woods with English college songs they had never heard before, and which the Indians, who have excellent ears, always picked up and sang in perfect time, with a very good imitation of the words, amid shouts and laughter. A good understanding having been once established, we became the best friends imaginable, and a more noisy, merry party never stemmed the waters of the St. Louis."

The hard toil of rowing was occasionally relieved by the equally laborious work of a *portage*, where the canoe and baggage had to be carried for miles across land, to avoid parts of the stream which were impassable. At length, however, the bark shot out merrily upon the bosom of Sandy Lake:-

"As nearly as possible in the centre of the continent of North America, and at an elevation of about 1800 feet above the level of the sea, extends a tract of pine-covered table-land about 100 miles square, and which probably contains a greater number of small lakes than any other district of the same size in the world. It is called Les Hauteurs des Terres, and is, in fact, the transverse watershed between the Hudson's Bay and the St. Lawrence waters, and those which run

into the Gulf of Mexico. In one of its tiny lakes (Itasca) the Mississippi takes its rise, and flows due south. In another close to it the Red River finds its source, and runs north to Lake Winnipeg; while there are others, not many miles distant in a southerly direction, whose waters have an eastern outlet, and, after a short but rapid course, lose themselves in Lake Superior.

"It added no little zest to the enjoyment of a summer evening to feel that we had successfully transferred ourselves and our bark canoe by the long portage through the woods described in the last chapter, from one of these streams to Sandy Lake, which furnishes a tributary to the head waters of the Mississippi."

Of the later history and the future prospects of the State of Minnesota this encouraging account is given:-

"After the cession of Canada to the English, the French still retained their control over the Indian tribes of Minnesota, and Englishmen for some years risked their lives in passing through the country. In 1774, however, the North-west Company of Montreal was established. As they employed old Canadian voyageurs exclusively, they succeeded in establishing posts to the west of Lake Superior. In 1790 they built the fort we were now passing, and a few years afterwards established posts at Leech Lake and other points of the Ojibway country. They were thus enabled entirely to monopolise the fur trade of Minnesota, of which Sandy Lake became the chief emporium. The principal traders at this time were invariably Scotchmen, whose shrewdness and sagacity enabled them to turn to good account the hardy endurance, and the knowledge of the country and its inhabitants, possessed by the half-breed voyageurs,—or, as they were more commonly called, 'Courreurs des Bois.' This class had now become very numerous, on account of the intimate relations which the French had maintained with the Indians for upwards of a century, and their habit of marrying Indian wives. Their mode of life was wild and adventurous, and the deeds of daring of many a 'Bois brûlé' are celebrated in the song of the voyageur, and their names handed down with veneration and respect. There is scarcely a river or a lake in the North-west with which some interesting association is not attached; and the tragedy of Sandy Lake, in which the principal trader, a Scotchman, called Kay, was murdered by an Indian, is among the most celebrated of these.

"For many years the North-west Company continued successfully to carry on their trade in spite of the rival American factory established at Prairie du Chien, below the Falls of St. Anthony, which was not conducted upon such principles as to induce the Indians to desert the English traders. In 1816, however, the American Fur Company, organised by Jacob Astor, purchased the Sandy Lake station, together with all the posts in that region; and the fur-trade of this district, which is still valuable, will continue to be carried on each year with less spirit and success, and bark canoes to ply upon the lonesome streams, and loaded voyageurs to tramp through these solitudes, until the hardy settler comes at last to wake the slumbering echoes of the silent forest with the ringing blow of the axe, or to turn with the ploughshare the virgin soil of the rolling prairie.

"It is not too much to predict that in a very few years the agricultural produce of the white man, from the fertile banks of the St. Peter's and the thriving farms upon the Red River—lumber from the head waters of the Father of Rivers—and minerals from the shores of the mightiest of fresh-water seas—will be hurried through the woods and forests of Minnesota; and the shriek of the engine scare away the startled waterfowl on distant lakes, or the plashing of paddles in streams, or savannahs deepened and connected by canals, considerably astonish the beavers. If the navigation of the Upper Mississippi were improved, and its rapids avoided by locks, it would only require a canal thirty-five miles long to connect the St. Louis below the falls with a stream running into

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Sandy Lake, and thus enable a steamer entering the mouth of the St. Lawrence to make its exit at New Orleans, and complete 4000 miles of internal fresh-water navigation through the finest country in 'creation.'"

In these remote settlements of the Far West towns are rapidly springing up, one of which, not ten years old, is already the seat of a university with a hundred pupils:—

"The first dwelling-house was only erected in this city in the autumn of 1847, and Mrs. Ard Godfrey claims the honour of having given birth to the first of the fair daughters of St. Anthony. There are now numerous manufactories, shops, newspaper offices, and young ladies; four organised churches—Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopalian, and Methodist; while the importance of the place has been much increased by its having been selected as the location for the university of Minnesota; the Act providing 'that the proceeds of all lands that may hereafter be granted by the United States to the territory, for the support of a university, shall be, and remain, a perpetual fund, to be called the "University Fund," the interest of which shall be appropriated to the support of a university.' This university was opened in 1851, and already contains about a hundred pupils. Indeed, Minnesota seems determined to be in advance of the age, for two sections in every township have been appropriated for the support of common schools, no other State having previously obtained more than one section in each township for such a purpose."

Mr. Oliphant assures English yachtsmen that there is now nothing to prevent them sailing direct from Cowes to Fond du Lac, two thousand miles from the mouth of the St. Lawrence:—

"If people in England had any idea of the lovely scenery and delightful climate of the American lakes, they would not confine their yachting to European waters. There are two thousand miles of lake navigation, affording fishing, and scenery unsurpassed by any in the world; while the numerous settlements on the shores would serve as pleasant resting-places, from which excursions might be made into the interior in bark canoes, or shooting expeditions organised. Now that the canal at the Sault Ste. Marie is finished, which connects Lake Superior with Lakes Michigan and Huron, there is nothing to prevent a yacht, not drawing more than eight and a half feet of water, sailing from Liverpool to Fond du Lac, the last two thousand miles from the mouth of the St. Lawrence being entirely inland navigation. Lake Huron is so abundantly studded with islands that one might cruise in it for months and always find fresh points of interest, and sail through new channels, each more beautiful than the last; while the immense advantage of always being able to land in rough weather, is one which yachtsmen are for the most part not slow to avail themselves of."

In the return towards the Canadian frontier, Chicago was one of the most remarkable places visited, and its progress illustrates the rapidity of railway extension in the States:—

"In 1852 there was only one railway, forty miles long, into this city. When I was there two years afterwards, nearly twenty railways radiated either directly or by connections from Chicago, with an aggregate length of 2500 miles. They extend north, south, west, and south-east. They are each from one to three hundred miles long, passing through and opening up new fertile districts. Eighty trains, averaging 120 passengers each, arrive daily at Chicago, and eighty trains, taking nearly the same number of persons, depart. The Illinois Central, which is the longest railway in the world—being 771 miles in length, including branches—passes through this town; so it is well qualified to be the terminus for the North Pacific line; and we have no business to doubt the engineering performances of a country in which there

are already 21,310 miles of railway laid down, or about 2500 miles more than the whole of the rest of the world put together."

Of the customs and manners, the social and political condition of the inhabitants of the Far West states, Mr. Oliphant's book gives faithful and striking sketches. The differences on such topics that appear in books published in England, do not always arise from the personal prejudices or feelings of the writers. The character of the American citizens in different parts of the Union is widely diverse, and even in regard to minor habits and customs there is room for discordance of reports. Thus, Mr. Wm. Chambers, in his recent work on America, declares that the remarks about bolting their food are unfounded; but Mr. Oliphant, who admits this with regard to hotels at Boston or New York, says that at the *tables d'hôte* at St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota, "from the moment when the first rush into the dining-room took place, to the moment the first man left it, was exactly seven minutes and a half. In ten minutes I remained the solitary spectator of a melancholy array of empty dishes, the contents of which had been sufficient, in that short period, to satisfy nearly a hundred voracious denizens of the Far West."

A map of the north-west provinces of America, with the author's route traced, is appended to the volume, which gives most lively and faithful notices of regions rapidly rising in prosperity and importance.

A Century of Acrostics on Names of Eminent Men.

Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

THE acrostic is an old and favourite form of verse, but we do not remember to have before seen a separate volume of such poetry. In our own language its use has been almost wholly an exercise of ingenuity, and it has been considered fit only for trivial subjects, to be classed among *nugae literariae*. The word in its derivation includes various artificial arrangements of lines, and many fantastic conceits have been indulged in. Generally the acrostic has been formed of the first letters of each line; sometimes of the last; sometimes of both; sometimes it is to be read downwards, sometimes upwards. An ingenious variety, called the Telestich, is that in which the letters beginning the lines spell a word, while the letters ending the lines, when taken together, form a word of an opposite meaning, as in this instance:—

"U nite and untie are the same—so say yo U.
N ot in wedlock, I ween, has this unity bee N.
I n the drama of marriage each wandering gon T,
T o a new face would fly—all except you and I—
E ach seeking to alter the spell in their seen E."

Although the fanciful and trifling tricks of poetasters have been carried to excess, and acrostics have come in for their share of satire, the origin of such artificial poetry was of a higher dignity. When written documents were yet rare, every artifice was employed to enforce on the attention or fix on the memory the verses sung by bards or teachers. Alphabetic associations formed obvious and convenient aids for this purpose. In the Hebrew Psalms of David, and in other parts of scripture, striking specimens occur. The peculiarity is not retained in the translations, but is indicated in the common version of the 119th Psalm by the initial letters prefixed to its divisions. The Greek anthology also presents examples of acrostics, and they were used also in the old Latin language.

Cicero, in his treatise 'De Divinatione,' has this remarkable passage:—"The verses of the Sybils (said he) are distinguished by that arrangement which the Greeks call Acrostic; where, from the first letters of each verse in order, words are formed which express some particular meaning; as is the case with some of Ennius's verses [the initial letters of which make 'which Ennius wrote!']". The modern history of acrostics would supply some curious literary entertainment, but we must not occupy more space with general remarks. In the volume before us a successful attempt is made to use this form of verse for conveying useful information and expressing agreeable reflections. The alphabetic necessity of the choice of words and epithets has not hindered the writer from giving distinct and generally correct character to the biographical subjects, as may be seen in the following examples, which are as remarkable for the truth and discrimination of the descriptions as for the ingenuity of the diction:—

"GEORGE HERBERT."

"G ood Country Parson, cheerful, quaint,
E ver in thy life a saint,
O'er thy memory sweetly rise
R are old Izak's eulogies,
G iving us, in life-drawn hue,
E ach lov'd feature to our view.
"H oly Herbert, humble, mild,
E'en as simple as a child,
R eady thy bounty to dispense,
B eaming with benevolence,
E ver blessing, ever blest,
R escuing the most distrest;
T hy 'Temple' now is Heaven's bright rest.

"DRYDEN."

"D eep rolls on deep in thy majestic line,
R ich music and the stateliest march combine;
Y et, who that hears its high harmonious strain,
D eems not thy genius thou didst half profane?
E xhausting thy great power of song on themes
N ot worthy of its strong effulgent beams.

"REYNOLDS."

"R are Painter! whose unequal'd skill could trace
E ach light and shadow of the changeful face;
Y outh's 'Samuel,' now, beaming with piety,
N ot the proud 'Banish'd Lord's' dark misery,
O r 'Urgonia's' ghastly visage, wild,
L ooking stern horror on each starving child:
D elights not less of social sort were thine,
S uch as with Burke, or e'en with Johnson shine.

"BUKE."

"B rilliant thy genius 'mongst a brilliant throng;
U nique thy eloquence of pen and tongue;
R om'e's Tully loftier flightis could scarce command,
K indling thy soul to thoughts that matchless stand,
E ver sublime and beautiful and grand.

"HUBER."

"H ow keen thy vision, e'en though reft of sight!
U sing with double power the mind's clear light:
B ees, and their hives, the curious ken has seann'd,
E nth cell, with geometric wisdom plann'd,
R ich stores of honied knowledge thus at thy command.

"CRABEE."

"C opyist of Nature—simply, sternly true—
R ead the scenes that in the page we view.
'A mid the huts where poor men lie' unknown,
B right hill, or deep pathon that hast thrown,
R ich stores of honied knowledge thus at thy command.

"WALTER SCOTT."

"W ondrous Wizard of the North,
A rm'd with spells of potent worth!
L ike to that greatest Bard of ours,
T he mighty magic of thy powers;
E 'en thy bright fancy's offspring find
R esemblance to his myrid mind,
S uch the creations that we see,—
C haracter, manners, life in thee—
O f Scotia's deeds, a proud display,
T he glories of a bygone day;
T hy genius foremost stands in all her long array.

"LAMB."

"L ike the bright impress of thy genial mind,
A re 'Elia's' essays, humourous, gay, refined:
M ost amiable wert thou, gentle, brave,
B urying all thought of self, as in a living grave.

"SOUTHEY (NO. 1)."

"S erenely bright thy life's pure stream did glide,
O n sweet romantic Derwentwater's side,
U nder great Skiddaw—there, in Epic lays,
T hon dream'dst a poet's dreams of olden days.
H ow Madoc wander'd o'er the Atlantic wave,
E astern Kehama, Roderic the brave;
Y ears cannot from our fondest memory leave.

"SOUTHEY (NO. 2).

"Sound wisdom guided thy prolific pen,
O'er many a wide review of books and men.
Uttering bright thoughts in purest flowing prose—
The glorious deeds of 'Nelson' 'gainst our foes;
How 'Wesley' liv'd—and 'Cowper's' mournful close.
Exalted though thy great poetic name,
Yet does thy perfect prose add lustre to thy fame.

"WORDSWORTH.

"Wandering, through many a year, 'mongst Cumbria's hills,
O'er her wild fells, sweet vales, and sunny lakes,
Rich stores of thought thy musing mind distils,
Day-dreams of poesy thy soul awakes—
Such was thy life—a poet's life, I ween;
Worshipper thou of Nature! every scene
Of beauty stirr'd thy fancy's deeper mood,
Reflection calm'd the current of thy blood:
Thus in the wide 'Excursion' of thy mind
High thoughts in words of worth we still may find.

"WILSON.

"When shall we look upon thy like again?
I in a fine frenzy dashing, thy bright pen,
Lively with wit, full of a poet's fire,
Smit with the love of Nature's wild attire,
O'er mountain, moor, and loch now loves to rove,
Now, in day-dreams, which 'nights ambrosial prove.

"ROGERS.

"Rivaling the Bard of Hope,
O'er e'en in smoothness, polish'd Pope;
Graceful is thy 'Memory';
Enchanting thy fair 'Italy';
R are thy skill in fancy's strife,
Sweet thy pictur'd 'Human Life.'

"IRVING.

"I in easy, natural, graceful charm of style,
Resembling Goldy's 'Vicar,'—free from guile;
V ein of rich humour through thy 'Sketch-book' flows,
Imagination her bright colours shows.
No equal hast thou 'mongst thy brother band,
G enial thy soul, worthy our own lov'd land.

"MACREADY.

"Master Tragedian! worthy all our praise.
Action and utterance such as bygone days
Could often boast, were thine. Need we but name
Roman 'Virginius?' while our Shakspeare's famous
Ever 'twas thy chief joy and pride to appear,
And give us back 'Macbeth, Othello, Lear.'
D elight to thousands oft thou gav'st, and now
Y ears of calm letter'd east 'tis thine to know.

"KNIGHT.

"Knowledge diffusing of most useful kind,
Not for the favour'd few, but striving many,
In philanthropic energy of mind
Gives thee a place scarcely surpass'd by any;
Handing thee down 'mongst knights of prouder name.
T hine, too, the praise of spreading Shakespeare's fame.

"MACAULAY.

"Masterly critic! in whose brilliant style,
A nd rich historic colouring—breathes again—
C loth'd in most picturesque costume the while,—
All the dim past, with all its bustling train,
Under this vivid, eloquent painting, see,
Life given anew to our old history's page;
A nd in thy stirring ballad poetry,
Y outh's dreams of ancient Rome once more our minds engage.

"LONGFELLOW.

"Likes like things have many a charm;
Often they're the heart must warm.
Now, o'er Slavery's guilt and woes,
Grief and shame's deep hues it throws;
P ar up Alpine heights in head,
'E xcelsior,' now the stirring word;
'L ife's Psalm' now, onward is inviting,
Longings for nobler deeds exciting;
O'er Britain now resounds thy name,
W hile 'States unborn' shall swell thy fame.

"TENNYSON.

"This verse is like rich music to the ear;
E legant, tender, sweet, thy varied lays:
Now, soft as lute, or as the clarion clear,
Now, pensive as some song of olden days.
Young pearls revel in thy poet dreams,
Steep'd in such melody of words as none
Of elder laureate bards have pour'd—it seems
Now, like Aeolian strains from breezy zephyrs won.

"DICKENS.

"Delightful Novelist! lov'd by youth and age,
In 'many-colour'd life' how rich thy page!
Comic, pathetic scenes alike to thee;
Indiest benevolence in all we see,
Ennobling humble worth, and struggling poverty.
No sickly sentimental trash we find;
Sweet sympathy pervades thy bright, thy glowing mind."

The series of acrostics commences with Homer, Cicero, and Virgil, and is followed in chronological order down to our own times. The dates, appropriate mottoes, and occasional short notes being given, render the book more useful as an agreeable miscellany of biographical and historical sketches. It may further gain the interest of our readers for

the work when we add, that it was composed "to relieve some of the many unoccupied hours that belong to that greatest of afflictions, the deprivation of sight."

The Wabash; or, Adventures of an English Gentleman's Family in the Interior of America. By J. Richard Beste, Esq. 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

So many books have of late years been published on America, that some special claims on public notice are expected in any additional work on the subject. Of this Mr. Beste is duly sensible, and very properly states in his preface the peculiar circumstances under which his narrative appears. He moved about with a large family, and was thus brought in contact with much of which a single traveller has no experience, "whose greater independence of motion," Mr. Beste says, "may indeed have often thrown him into companionship with those individual oddities and entertaining scamps, whom we are sometimes told to look upon as types of the whole American people; but the incidents of family travel have afforded interests more deep, and probably more genuine." The genuineness of these impressions, and the faithfulness of the descriptions are the more felt, from the author having introduced frequent extracts from the journals kept by the younger members of his family, some of which present really interesting and acceptable notices of matters which professed authors would probably have omitted to notice or to record. We are introduced to the family at the commencement of the work at Talence, near Bordeaux, where they had been residing for some time:—

"Farewell then to Talence. Fourteen weeks of the winter and spring had glided away since we entered the quiet village: they had glided away in such solitude as can be known by a young father and mother surrounded by twelve children—six boys and six girls—of ages varying from two to nineteen. The reader must become acquainted with my children. It was for those boys that we were about to undertake the voyage to America. From the time of the birth of my second son, I had determined that emigration to the back woods would be the happiest lot for all of them during my life; for all, but the eldest, after me. Fond of a country life myself, I had resolved that the chances of happiness were greater to young men who (first endowed with classical education such as is given in Europe) should occupy lands of their own in the New World, and see their children grow up around them to a similar lot, than they would be to the same young men if harnessed to any of the professions in England, through which they perhaps might, by the time they were sixty, earn a competence on which to marry and breed up another race of aspiring paupers. Right or wrong, this had been my settled conviction through life: and we would now take an opportunity of visiting the country with them, and of becoming acquainted with their future home, while our daughters were not old enough to require our residence elsewhere. Three of our sons had already been to some of our best Catholic Colleges in England. Our daughters had worked, like other young ladies, with governesses and masters, and at Talence, education and accomplishments had not been neglected."

We may as well say here—for we are not going to give an account of the fortunes of the family—that the tour of inspection in America dissipated many of the day-dreams entertained at a distance. Domestic sorrows and bereavements help to tinge with sadness the conclusion of the narrative, but the prac-

tical result of the expedition was the dearly bought experience, that the interior of America is not the fit place for an English family of education and refinement to think of settling in. Although Mr. Beste was somewhat disappointed in the object of his personal inquiries, his observations on different parts of the country, as recorded in these volumes, may afford most serviceable hints to intending emigrants. For our present purpose it will suffice to give some miscellaneous extracts in which some of the author's observations on life and manners in America are recorded, and we begin with some remarks on American women generally, taken from a chapter on Society on the Wabash, the name of the river near which the author had 'located' himself:—

"Whether it take the tone of sentimentality or indifference, the affectation is always there. The nasal whine, which Englishmen feel to be so revolting, is, I really believe, in great part, affected; the most common-place observations are thought to be rendered touching and full of meaning when drawled forth at the rate of five words an hour in that languidly-sentimental or rigidly-precise twang. I have remarked on the excessive politeness of all American men to all females, whether in the saloons of steamers or elsewhere: I have remarked upon the elegant dress of the American women: I have remarked upon the lounging and rocking-chairs in which they rock and fan themselves incessantly: but I have not remarked upon their care of their children on those occasions; I have not remarked upon any wish to inform their minds, shown by the books carried with them; I have not remarked upon any endeavour to amuse and employ their fingers with fancy work:—I have not remarked on these, because, in no saloon throughout America, did I ever see any female even momentarily employed with children, with books, or with needle work. Let it not be said that I came direct to the backwoods and had no opportunity of forming an opinion. I came by fashionable steamboats and large towns; and I so returned. I lingered at fashionable watering places. Everywhere, I saw the same listless, whining apathy: the same idleness and affectation of helpless fine-ladyism. Where an Englishwoman, of whatever class, would have had her embroidery frame or her crochet work or even her novel, the American woman, whether rich or poor, had her rocking-chair and her fan, her simper and her sigh, her whine and her finery.

"From what I saw of American women at Terre Haute, I believe much of this idleness to be affected. Here, at all events, I know that they work and are obliged to work in private. The marvel to me is that American men, who are so active-minded themselves, can admire such listless apathy in the other sex. That they do admire it, is proved by the fact that the women practise it. Certainly they have every right to please themselves:—

"Non equidem invideo: miro magis:—but I believe that few English travellers, who are won by the frank, kind-hearted energy of the American men, do not turn disgusted from the lack-a-daisical conceit of their women."

And afterwards, in giving hints to young farmers from England:—

"One other question still remains; a question that, I doubt not, will be more interesting than any to the young man whom I am supposing to emigrate:—should he take a wife with him, or marry an American, or return and fetch a country-woman? To return and fetch one, would imply buying a location first without the counsel and assent of one on whose approval his happiness must hereafter depend, and leaving it when his presence will be most needed to conduct his improvements. Marrying an American implies devoting himself to a perpetual colic—for the whining, pining, helpless, lack-a-daisical affectation of fine-ladyism which the American sex appear to

think so attractive, must act as a perpetual blister or rather colic upon any Englishman, when he remembers the frankness, heartiness, life and nature of a well-born, well-bred Englishwoman who has no position to affect or to strive for. No doubt, all this that I object to in American females is only manner, they are loving, faithful, virtuous, thrifty wives, and most affectionate mothers. I merely describe their manners as they impressed me. If my would-be emigrant thinks them attractive, let him select his wife from amongst them."

Mr. Beste discovers the reason why most Americans think that they speak purer English than the people of the old country :—

" Some of our boxes had need to be repaired ; and I sent for a carpenter to the hotel. A native American came with his man. I was much struck with the manner and cleverness with which he handled his tools. He had made me a new packing case which had to be nailed down, planed, and fitted. In Europe four tools would have been required for this—a gimlet, a hammer, a plane, and a pair of pincers : here one sufficed. He never thought of using a gimlet, but struck the nails in, unerringly, with the hammer-shaped end of his adze ; a slit in this sufficed to draw out old nails with ; while the adze itself answered the purpose of a plane. I never saw a carpenter get through his work more neatly and so expeditiously."

" But," said he, " I reckon that you are not British ; you have not the accent of the Irish and Scotch, and you do not talk like the English ; what country do you come from ?"

" We are English," I replied ; " all born and raised, as you call it, in England."

" Impossible ! you do not talk English like true British."

" What is the difference ?"

" You do not say 'ouse' and 'and' for house and hand : all the children, and all of you, pronounce all these words like Americans, and not as real English emigrants pronounce them. Their way of speaking makes us always say that we talk better English than the English themselves."

" I had, indeed, often heard the Americans laughed at for saying so ; but now the matter was explained. My carpenter repeated with great accuracy, various instances of provincialisms and vulgarisms which he, and all of them, had noticed, more or less, in all the English emigrants who had come amongst them. Seeing none of any other class, they naturally supposed that all English people pronounced the language in the same manner ; and so prided themselves upon the superiority of American English. For notwithstanding the disagreeable nasal tone and drawing whine in which most of them speak, and notwithstanding a few national phrases and the peculiar use and pronunciation of certain words, it must be admitted that the American people, in general, speak English without provincial dialect or vulgarisms. Whence, in fact, could they acquire such ? since all the emigrants they see come from different parts of England, the provincialisms of the one neutralise those of the other."

With the character of the Americans generally Mr. Beste was pleased, and he bears testimony that, apart from mere superficial manners, he found far more politeness, frankness, and good fellowship in the States than in any other country. At Havre, before sailing for the New World, an instance occurred of this civility, suggesting a general remark as to the American character in this respect :—

" The English consul at Havre was a very gentlemanly man—rather above his place, as most of our *employés* are. The one of Bordeaux had been absent all the winter, and his substitute could only charge heavy fees for the deeds he witnessed for me. Our consul at Havre did not know what the fees were ; but his clerk did who sat in the anteroom. Said clerk also insisted upon *visé* my passport, and making me pay for his doing so ; but the police assured me that such *visé* was un-

necessary. I called on the American consul also, at Havre ; he kept three or four clerks, but he sat in the same room with them, and came forward and gave me, gratis, all the information I needed, with the willing *prévenance* that I have found more amongst Americans than any other *employés*. Much of national feeling and national manners may be learnt in the bureaux, whether of government or railway or other companies in the different States : and those who have travelled enough to understand manner and intonation of the voice as well as spoken words, will probably agree with me that the French of every class, in and out of office, used to evince to us more incivility and ill-manners than any other people in the world. They could not overcome their national antipathies. We shall see what will be the effect of our anti-Russian alliance."

At Cincinnati—

" Buiness took me to a Colonel —. I had no letter of recommendation to him, but he filled some public department on which I wished for information, and I introduced myself to his office. He received me with a frankness and an evident wish to be of service, which an Englishman would have thought derogatory to himself ; but the Americans seem to be a thoroughly good-natured and good-hearted people. He gave me all the information I needed, and then said, 'But I had heard of you before. Some friends of mine came home in the ears last night, and they told me of a great British family that had arrived. Where are you located ?'

" I told him at the Burnet House, when he lifted up his hands, and said, 'Well now, I guess that you had better get out of that before the day is out. Why, you will be ruined ! I don't know what your means are, but, whatever they are, with all those children, and one more whom you say is coming from England, you must have something else to do with your money than to squander it in hotels. It is an excellent house, mind ; a fashionable house ; I myself should certainly go to it, if I had need to go to any hotel in Cincinnati, and were alone ; but I would never think of taking my lady and family there. Go and look out for another hotel directly...'

Cincinnati seems still to be going a-head at a surprising rate :—

" The town of Cincinnati, in the year 1800, contained a population of 700 inhabitants ; in 1840, its population was 47,000 ; in 1850, it was 116,000. It is built on the right bank of the Ohio river, and is about one thousand miles from New York and from Boston ; or, as one ought now to reckon distances, sixty-seven hours. It stands upon a double platform gently rising from the river, and is again surrounded by a wall of lofty and picturesque hills that appear immediately beyond its streets. Some of the streets run up the sides of these hills, and in them, I was informed, reside the 'upper crust' of the society of Cincinnati. The broad stream of the Ohio circles round the base of the mountains and of the town ; and two suburbs, containing about 20,000 inhabitants, rise on its opposite bank—though that bank be in the slave state of Kentucky. Floating wharves are adapted to the rise and fall of the river, so that merchandise can, at all times, be landed and embarked without difficulty. Steamboats line its quays and cover its waters. About one hundred and fifty are owned by merchants of the town. The imports of Cincinnati are worth fifty millions, her exports fifty-six millions of dollars a-year ; and upwards of two hundred steam engines are at work in flour mills, saw mills, cotton factories, type foundries, &c.

" For the 'Queen City of the West' is not merely a commercial place ; it is a seat of literature also. There are published here eleven daily and twenty-five weekly newspapers, and six monthly periodicals. Book business, printing, and stereotyping are done here with beauty and neatness.

" We have all heard of the learned pig. Hog slaughtering and pork packing is the next important of all the trades of Cincinnati. They have slaughter and packing houses which enable them to dispose of twenty thousand hogs per day ; but as

the weather necessarily restricts the season to about twelve weeks, and as there must be many unpropitious days even in these, they can seldom get through more than four hundred thousand hogs a-year !

" Nor is religion forgotten by the inhabitants of Cincinnati. Sixty churches are devoted to different modes of worship. Of these, twelve are Catholic ; two are Jewish ; four are episcopal ; the others are dedicated to the promulgation of what, in England, are called different modes of dissent. In nine churches, the service is performed in German.

" A busy, smoking, reeking place Cincinnati thus very necessarily appeared to us during this first morning's walk ; the sun was very hot ; and I found the air impregnated with an oppressive odour which I could not understand. We returned to the Burnet House to dinner at two o'clock. About one hundred people were seated in the dining room : the women were, as a matter of course in America, very stylishly and flauntingly dressed : many of the men sat in brown holland frock coats."

In a concluding chapter Mr. Beste presents some general statements on American emigration, his own predilections being strongly in favour of St. Louis as a locality :—

" In my opinion St. Louis will, at no distant day, be the largest, the most populous, and the richest city in North America. It is as nearly as possible in the centre of the continent : the Missouri, by untold thousands of miles on its own waters or those of its tributaries, brings the produce of unbounded States to it : the upper half of the Mississippi floats down to it the wealth of eight hundred miles of territory from the Falls of St. Anthony ; while it is able to send them all off by the lower Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, or by the Illinois river and ship canal to the great Lakes, the St. Lawrence and the Northern Atlantic. Such a situation, in the midst of a fertile agricultural, mineral, and coal district, is unrivalled in the whole world ; and railways are even now uniting it with the Pacific Ocean. In the last ten years, the population of St. Louis has increased from sixteen to eighty-three thousand—an increase unparalleled in any other State in the Union. In the society of St. Louis, the emigrant will find more of variety, and more of French manners, than in any other American city, except New Orleans. Here let him pause ; and without hastening a decision, here let him inquire for a location as near as he can find one to the city, and combining the desiderata that I have suggested. He will scarcely find one on the eastern bank of the Mississippi : the western bank is low, and even the neighbouring hills are not considered healthy : moreover, Missouri is a slave State ; and although being the last and nearest to free States and to Canada, the bonds of slavery cannot be very tightly drawn there, still it is open to the immense objections before suggested. The emigrant will probably be led to the neighbouring State of Iowa, as offering all that he seeks in greater perfection than he could find it in any other part of the Union. St. Louis will still be his market-town and his capital ; his centre of commerce, of society, and of refinement. All, however, ought to be dependent upon climate : no advantages can counterbalance an unhealthy situation. We ourselves had suffered in the rich valley of the Wabash ; and the river bottoms in America are known to be generally unhealthy."

On the educational system of the United States the author gives some useful information ; and being a Roman Catholic, though a liberal one, his statements the more deserve consideration :—

" It has been already stated that all the best schools and colleges in the United States are in the hands of Catholics—either Jesuits or religious of other orders. It has been stated that the bulk of scholars at all these schools, convents, and colleges, are Protestants ; that their religion is not tampered with by their teachers ; but that they are

received because the Catholics are too few to support exclusive establishments. In the towns, the majority of pupils are day-scholars—the children therefore of parents who have not time, as yet, to think of any religious creed for themselves or their offspring—the children of parents who have risen or are rising out of a state of labour, of toil, of traffic, of thrift, and of consequent domestic habits which ill qualify them to associate with the children of more refined classes or households.

"In the ecclesiastical seminaries—to one of which two of my sons were removed—there is, of course, no such diversity of religious belief.

"All these colleges and seminaries profess to teach the classics, the modern languages of Europe and every science. Nothing can be better than the prospectuses and professions they put forth; but are professions only. The result is a most imperfect study of Latin; little or no Greek; such a smattering of modern languages as can be picked up from a New Orleans lad, or other pupil who is made professor to the school of his own *patio*; and the most superficial acquaintance with any science. The teaching, in fact, is nought: and, as the quarterly reports sent home express satisfaction with the progress made by pupils who learn nothing, the expectation and intention of the teachers is also, evidently, nought.

"Association with the self-dependent and wide-awake American boys does, however, so sharpen the wits and arouse the energies of English lads, that, on their return to England, my boys were able to recover the ground they had lost in mere learning; and if they ever go back to the United States as settlers, they will certainly be much more likely 'to go a-head and to be made presidents,' than they would have been had they received their whole education in Europe.

"American colleges are considerably more expensive than the Catholic colleges of England."

It would be easy to point out faults in Mr. Beste's book, but it has the merit of which its writer was chiefly ambitious, that of presenting familiar and faithful sketches of American life in the interior. We have found in this family note-book practical information and useful hints on subjects overlooked or omitted in more formal narratives and elaborate treatises.

NOTICES.

Punch's Pocket-Book for 1856. With Illustrations by John Leech and John Tenniel. Bradbury and Evans.

The advent of 'Punch's Pocket-Book' for 1856 is the first indication we have met with of the coming leap year. The attractions of the comic pencil are, as usual, infinitely superior to those of the comic pen, and both are of the average quality of cleverness and mediocrity. The wit literary is as a grain of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff. You may read Part II. nearly through ere finding any, and when found it is scarcely worth the reading. The wit pictorial is rich at every touch, and we scarcely know which most to admire, the charming specimens of cherub innocence in the perambulator, or the complacent visage of the officer before the Portuguese ambassador, the pert little tumblers of head over heels for a half-penny, or the bumptious little Henry, Prince of Wales, squaring at the Lord Chief Justice. The frontispiece, a conglomerate of street nuisances, is most humorously, and it may be added, alas! truthfully sketched by Leech, and the medieval vignettes by Tenniel are no less witty in design than delicately artistic in execution.

Ivan III.; or, a Day and Night in Russia. A Dramatic Sketch. In Five Acts. By John Bell, Sculptor. Chapman and Hall.

An old portion of Russian history has been dramatized by Mr. Bell, in the story of *Ivan III.*, a monarch whose name is memorable in the annals of the empire. Ivan was more notorious even than our Henry VIII. for the number of his wives, and

his expeditious way of changing them. The mode in which the early Czars chose their wives suggests the leading incident of the drama, in which are introduced many of the most noted characteristics of the cruel barbarian, whose domestic and public life is here described. The drama thus opens:—

"SCENE I.—Morning. Street in Moscow. Exterior of Quass-House. Citizens passing and repassing.

YOUNG CITIZEN.
So this makes the Czar's eighth wedding!

OLD CITIZEN.
His first Empress was Angelica, and well was she named,

for she was his better angel. She had the blessed art to bribe somewhat his license, but since her death each year is Ivan more terrible. 'Twas but the other day, you know, that he let out a score of hungry bears in the market-place, and sat on the roof of his palace with his courtiers drinking and laughing while they tore the multitude.

YOUNG CITIZEN.
His second Empress, what was her name?

OLD CITIZEN.
He mourned some time for his first wife before he married Helena. She was soon divorced, however, and is long since dead. His next was a girl of this city,—as fiery a spirit as himself. They quarrelled over their cups at a feast, and he slew her with his golden goblet. Yet he grieved after, and built the great tomb to her memory to see in the old Church of Spas na Boru,—all over gold and fret-work. His next was the Princess Vassilovitch. He banished her family that he might have no rival in her love, and she soon pined and died.

YOUNG CITIZEN.
That makes four.

OLD CITIZEN.
The three last have had short reigns.

(Trumpet sounds. Enter Herald.)

HERALD.
By Ukase of the Czar, the maidens chosen throughout all Russia by the deputies Will meet at noon in the Kremlin, there to await Czar Ivan's choice. The saints defend our Czar!

[Exit.]

OLD CITIZEN.
A wedding in the old Muscovite fashion!—a general muster of beauty for the Czar to choose from!"

Bomelius, a physician who exercised great influence over the Czar, is one of the principal personages who figure in the drama, and his character as reported by history is well exhibited. The story of poor *Katerina* is very affecting, and the vengeance taken by *Kolto* on the Czar for the injury in tearing from him his betrothed, forms a striking close to the tragedy. *Katerina* dies by poison prepared by *Bomelius*. Her last words are about *Kolto*:—

"Methought I was
In my own valley, and the sun was bright,
And all the bells were ringing. I asked why?
'Kolto,' they said, 'was come back from the wars.'
And then he stood beside me, and his lips
Moved as to speak, and then—
I woke, and lost those dear, dear accents. Oh alas!
If thus I sleep with joy and wake with pain,
Oh, may I sleep and never wake again!" *

Thanks, it will do quite well—my bridal dress,
'Tis very pretty. Love, you were long in coming;
Yet all was ready. Think not ill of me
For loving so. Oh, yes there is the priest
In the white robe—there all the choristers,
And they, too, are in white—what's that they sing?
Is it a dirge?—

Oh, no—it is a hymn

Of heaven, *Kolto*!"

It was in Ivan's reign that Siberia was annexed to Russia, in the manner related in one of the episodes of the drama.

Handbook of Natural Philosophy. By Dionysius Lardner, D.C.L. Part I., Mechanics. Walton and Maberly.

On Dr. Lardner's 'Handbook of Natural Philosophy' this is a new edition, with additional matter, and in a form that will extend its utility. The contents of the whole work are distributed in four volumes:—the first on Mechanics; the second on Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, and Heat; the third on Optics and Acoustics; and the fourth on Electricity, Magnetism, and Meteorology. Together these treatises will form a complete course of natural philosophy, in popular form, adapted either for educational use, or for the study of those

who desire general information on physical science, without the profound methods of mathematical investigation. The statements and explanations are given with the clearness which marks all Dr. Lardner's writings, and numerous illustrations and diagrams facilitate the study of the work. In the

volume on Mechanics we observe many new engravings and diagrams, and numerous illustrations of the application of science to the industrial arts. It is a valuable educational treatise in this branch of physical science.

SUMMARY.

Of the following miscellaneous publications we give the titles. Part III. of Vol. I. of the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, in which the most important paper is one on the ancient and modern ethnography of Scotland, by John Beddoe, M.D. *Familiar Words as Affecting the Conduct of England* in 1855, by David Urquhart (Trübner and Co.), a second series of discussions on Eastern affairs by this persevering politician. Apart from the public bearings of the subject, the 'familiar words' cited by Mr. Urquhart, such as monarchy, democracy, civilization, public opinion, diplomacy, and others, might furnish striking illustrations of Locke's forcible statements about the abuse of language in argument, or instances of the *idola fori* of Bacon. *The Doctor's Vision*, an allegorical representation of physiological facts relating to the human body and mind, by Mrs. Paull (Bell and Daldy). *Inverso Elementary Tactics of Cavalry*, by A. B. C. (Bosworth), comprising simple, compound, and partial invasions, and other movements of squadrons deserving the consideration of cavalry officers. *Sketch of the Siege, and its Probable Sequence*, by Vigilantia (Wright); *The Right Man in the Right Place*, by Bernard Cracroft (Bell and Daldy), on administrative reform, as the title suggests; *Initiatory Treatise on Philosophy*, elaborated for self-students, by the Chevalier J. G. de Schler, translated by the Rev. R. D. Harris, M.A. (Dulau and Co.) Part first, critico-metaphysical, a discussion on the true notion of philosophy, its nature, origin, and aim. *The Unity of Matter*, by Alex. Stephen Wilson (Highley), an elaborate speculation, in the form of a dialogue, on subjects, for arriving at conclusions concerning which there are neither experimental data nor sufficient grounds of philosophical argument. *A Few Stray Verses*, by a Spirit of the Cam (Bosworth), chiefly from newspapers, where they have before appeared, and scarcely worth reprinting, except for the satisfaction of the writer and his friends. *Outlines of English Grammar*, by James Millar (Sutherland and Knox), "arranged for being taught on the intellectual system," as the title-page states, a method of instruction, we suppose, in which pains are taken to give rational explanations of grammatical rules, instead of presenting them to be arbitrarily committed to memory.

The *Report on the Results of the Different Methods of Treatment of Cholera in 1854*, by the General Board of Health, is published by authority (Eyre and Spottiswoode), and may be regarded as supplemental to the metropolitan report, addressed to the President of the General Board of Health, by the Treatment Committee of the Medical Council. Under the title of *The Ground we Tread in Worcestershire*, is given the substance of two lectures on local geology, delivered before the Droitwich Literary and Scientific Institute, by John Slaney Pakington, Esq. (Hatchard), a clear and popular description of a very interesting geological district. This little tract will afford especially pleasant information to all who live within sight of the Malvern Hills, while the general account of the Worcestershire deposits suggests remarks of interest to other than local geologists.

Under the title of *The Man Christ Jesus*, an elaborate theological treatise on the human nature of the Saviour, by the Rev. Robert Craig, M.A., Rothesay (Constable and Co.), apparently a series of pulpit discourses on the subject. In anxiety to avoid subjects that might give the least countenance to Socinian views, orthodox divines have been perhaps led to dwell less than they ought on the humanity of the twofold nature, an omission which Mr. Craig's book supplies in a form adapted for general reading. A second edition is published of *Mary Elliott*, by the author of 'Cousin Kate,' a tale in which the spirit of kindli-

ness is inculcated by example on the young, in the form of a pleasing narrative (Kennedy, Edinburgh; Hamilton, Adams, and Co., London). Miss Catherine Sinclair's tale, *Jane Bouverie, and How she became an Old Maid*, is reprinted in the Run and Read Library (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.) Part VII. of the *History of Christian Churches and Sects, from the earliest Ages of Christianity*, by the Rev. J. B. Marsden, M.A. (Bentley), contains the conclusion of the sketch of the Church of Rome, an account of the Russian Church, and the Church of Scotland.

Parts I. and II. are published of the Fourth Volume of *A Plain Commentary on the Four Holy Gospels*, intended chiefly for devotional reading (J. H. and J. Parker), well suited either for private study, or as the basis of oral instruction. An essay on *The Promises of Christianity*, by W. Kay, D.D., Principal of King's College, Calcutta (J. H. and J. Parker), reprinted from a Calcutta periodical, 'The Missionary,' gives an able statement of the principles of missionary enterprise, with useful hints on the hindrances to the diffusion and reception of Christianity. A reply to the Rev. R. J. Wilberforce's 'Inquiry into the Principles of Church Authority,' is given in an *Examination of Charges against the Church of England* (J. and C. Mozley), reprinted from the 'Christian Remembrancer' of April, 1855, with additional matter.

Reprinted from 'The Medical Times and Gazette' is a practical essay, *On the Cure of Toothache without Extracting*, by Donaldson Mackenzie, surgeon-dentist (Churchill), which may give welcome hints to sufferers, and deserves notice among many works on the subject, as being written without the mystery accompanying secret systems of treatment. Mr. Mackenzie's practice is founded on the belief that caries always commences outside not inside the teeth. *An Abstract of the Laws Relating to Lascars and Asiatic Seamen* (Smith, Elder, and Co.), is prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes, secretary of an excellent institution recently formed for the benefit of strangers brought from the East in the British Merchant Service, or in foreign vessels arriving in England. It seems about 6000 of these Asiatic sailors annually come to London, and while Parliament has passed regulations relating to them in the Merchant Shipping Act, a society of benevolent men has provided an Asiatic Sailors' Home, where they can be cheaply lodged, and their improvement as well as comfort attended to when in the port of London.

Of the following tales we give the titles: *The Recruit*, a new edition, in Parker's monthly series of tales (J. H. and J. Parker); *The Railroad Children*, by the author of 'The Heir of Redclyffe' (J. and C. Mozley); *Mrs. Boss's Niece*, by the author of 'Stories on Proverbs' (J. and C. Mozley).

An American account of political incidents and parties of the present day in the States is entitled *Adventures of my Cousin Smooth; or, the Little Quibbles of Great Governments*, by Timothy Templeton (Tweedie). The style of the book is repulsive to English readers, who will differ also from the writer in some of his views, though agreeing in the spirit of the general conclusion that the two greatest nations of the earth should manage to settle their disputes in a liberal manner, and with as much mutual compromise as possible.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Adecock's Engineer's Pocket Book, 1856, roan tuck, 6s.
- Archbold's (J. F.) Bankrupt Law, 2nd Edition, 12mo, cl., 16s.
- Biden's (J.) *The Only Sacrifice*, post Svo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Bohn's British Classics. *Burke's Works*, post Svo, cl., 3s. 6d.
- Browning's (R.) *Men and Women*, 2 vols., 12mo, cloth, 12s.
- Chancery, Vol. 7; *Hell's Posts*, Vol. 23, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Double (The) *Marriage*, by Mrs. Lo Touche, 3 vols., £1 11s. 6d.
- Floral Souvenir, imperial Svo, bound, £1 11s. 6d.
- Goethe's Life and Works, by C. H. Lewes, 2 vols., cl., £1 10s.
- Gosse's (P. H.) *Handbook to the Marine Aquarium*, 1 vol., 2s. 6d.
- Groups from Flora's Bowers, imperial Svo, bound, £1 1s.
- Judson's (S. B.) *Memoir*, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
- Lardner's (Dr.) *Common Things Explained*, 12mo, cl., 2s. 6d.
- Popular Astronomy*, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Mackenzie's *Beneficial Influence of the Ancient Clergy*, 6s. 6d.
- Maurice's *Patriarchs and Lawgivers of the Old Testament*, 6s.
- Murray's *History of British India*, post Svo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
- Parkinson's (S.) *Elementary Mechanics*, crown Svo, cl., 9s. 6d.
- Platonis Philebus, Edited by Dr. Badham, Svo, boards, 6s.

Sinclair's (C.) *Cross Purposes*, 3 vols., post Svo, cl., £1 11s. 6d.

Stainton's (H. I.) *Natural History of the Tinea*, cl., 12s. 6d.

Stark's *History of Bishopric of Lincoln*, cl., reduced, 8s. 6d.

Strachey's *Miracles and Science*, post Svo, bds., reduced, 1s.

Thackeray's (W. M.) *Miscellanies*, Vol. 1, post Svo, cloth, 6s.

Thring's (E.) *Construing Book*, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.

Ward's (S. H.) *Healthy Respiration*, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.

Wilson's (D.) *Letters from the Continent*, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.

NOTES ON THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

The Board of Trade has issued a fragmentary budget of 'Notes' on the French, Foreign, and British Colonial Departments of the Paris Exhibition, from the pens of a few of the English jurors, which, however valuable in themselves, present but a sorry instalment of what the public has a right to expect in the shape of an official Report. With the exception of some tolerably copious notes by Sir William Hooker, comprising one-fourth of the whole, on the vegetable products of India and Algeria, the contents are of the most meagre description. We find nothing amongst them that the merchants, manufacturers, and workmen could not have waited for in a more complete form, and it is impossible not to regard this publication as unsatisfactory and premature. All that we find under the head of Class I. is a note from Professor Warrington Smyth, calling the attention of our iron trade to the giant strides which have brought some of the continental states into competition with our own; and we are informed in the trite half-dozen lines that fall to the next three pages, that attention has of late years been bestowed, both in Britain and abroad, on improving the ventilation of coal mines. Professor Owen calls special attention to the Isinglass of Canada as a substitute for that hitherto supplied by Russia, and recommends the Colonial Authorities to afford every encouragement to the Canadians dwelling in the vicinity of rivers and lakes, in the capture of sturgeons, and the preparation, for conversion into isinglass, of their air-bladders and alimentary canals. The learned anatomist also bears testimony to the excellent quality of the Beef Biscuit and Preserved Vegetables of Paris, and to the increasing importance of the vineyards of Australia. Some of the wines of that colony, of the vintage of 1839, bottled in 1842, have "a bouquet and body flavour," says the Professor, with an imaginary smack of the lips, "equal to the finest Champagnes."

In the department of Vegetable Products, Sir William Hooker bears honourable testimony to the zeal of Dr. Royle in the contributions from British India, and considers the collection to rank among the very first in the Exhibition. The notes relating to the French Colony of Algeria have, perhaps, the most novelty:-

"The territory of Algeria occupies a length in Northern Africa of 700 miles from east to west, and of indefinite breadth from north to south, gradually merging into the domain of the mountain tribes, for its southern limits are traversed by ranges of the Atlas Mountains. The whole is divided into three provinces—Algiers, Oran, and Constantine. A great portion of this country is distinguished by its natural fertility; yet the indolence of the people, the oppression of the government, the want of roads and interior communications, caused three-fourths of it to be left uncultivated, till, in 1830, it was entirely subjugated by the French; and now Europe is astonished at the extent of the products, indicative of the vast resources of the country, as exhibited on the present occasion. The arrangement of these products is no less creditable than the collection itself. The ground-floor contains chiefly the raw products, and here one is surprised, from a country comparatively of so small extent, to see plants and fruits of the tropics and of temperate climates, and each of the finest kinds—oranges, lemons, citrons, cedrals, dates, cherimolys, bananas, arachis, &c., mingled with almonds, chestnuts, figs, sweet acorns (*Quercus ballota*), pomegranates, olives, grapes, apples, &c.; the finest Indian-corn, rice, songham, millet, together with wheat, barley, oats, rye, that would do honour to the best agricultural districts in the north of France or in England. Yams, batatas,

eddoes (*Caladium esculentum*), are placed by the side of excellent potatoes. Cottons with hemp and flax, &c. The collection of woods, raw and manufactured. Fibres in every state of preparation, from the plant itself to the rich fabrics in glazed cases of the gallery, all attract public attention."

On the Woods of Algeria Sir William Hooker has the following:-

"The forests of Algeria appear to be of vast extent and value, and are now occupying the attention of Government. The province of Algiers is said to contain 208,606 hectares; that of Oran 269,764, and that of Constantine, no less than 630,657 hectares. The useful woods consist of almond, arbutus (*A. Unedo*), whitethorn, alder, *Erica arborea* (very fine specimens). Carob-tree. Cedar; it is comparatively but recently that the cedar of Lebanon is known to inhabit Mount Atlas. The samples are peculiarly large and fine, sections of the trunk (one stated to be from a tree five metres twenty-five centimetres in diameter at the base). A beautiful table made of one circular piece measures four and a-half feet across. The gigantic dimensions of the cedar, affording long beams, equalling in strength the best red fir-planks of Lorraine and the North, make it valuable for building purposes; while its lightness, delicate fibre, and minute pores, recommend it for cabinet-work. It is resinous, without becoming damp even at a temperature of thirty-five degrees, free from knots, and easily sawn; it may be cleaved and shaped with ease, and it does not shrink and curl when exposed to considerable heat. In cabinet-work, it is valuable for its colour and veining, and eminently for the agreeable scent, which preserves the clothes deposited in it from the attacks of moths. In short, the carpenter and cabinet-maker may alike find it useful." In England the cedar of Lebanon is not esteemed, probably from the wood not coming to perfection in our country. Holtzappfel simply remarks, 'wood of a rich yellowish brown, straight, and it has a peculiar odour.' Certainly the table above alluded to is exceedingly beautiful, and has taken a very fine polish. In their native mountains both the cedar and the deodar yield a very superior wood to what may be expected in this country. Loudon, who wrote in 1838, says, 'The cedar of Lebanon has also lately been discovered on Mount Atlas whence cones and specimens of the branches were sent by Mr. Drummond Hay, the British consul at Tangier, to Mr. Lambert, and specimens have also been received from Morocco, by G. B. Webb, Esq.' Cherry; sweet-chestnut; cork-oak. Wood and noble specimens of cork of various degrees of quality. *Zeen* (*Quercus Mirbeckii*), abundant in the province of Constantine; wood very hard and heavy, admirable for naval timber. *Balota* (*Quercus ballota*), from the heights of the Atlas.

"Citron; wood hard, used for furniture; Italian cypress (*Cupressus pyramidalis*); laburnum; Neapolitan maple; ash (sharp-leaved var.), excellent for veneering; fig (*Funa?*), already noticed for its reticulated woody fibre; it hardly comes under the denomination of woods; junipers (*Juniper phoenicea* and *J. oxycedrus*), the former used and known as pencil-cedar. Good for sounding-boards of musical instruments; holly, remarkable for its size and whiteness of the grain, superior to the same wood of France; jujuba (*Ziziphus sativa* and *Z. lotus*); oleander; poet's laurel; lentisk, beautiful and valuable for ornamental cabinet-work; ivy, gigantic samples, but wood soft, and coarse-grained; white mulberry, hard and useful wood; myrtle, wood close-grained, hard, and heavy, good for turnery; root-portion handsomely veined; alaternus, handsome, red in the heart; the circumference, citron-yellow; walnut; olive, 'arbre qui est une des essences dominantes de l'Algérie.' Some of the planks and blocks here exhibited are of enormous size, one of the latter, the base of the trunk with the bark on, would be considered very large for an oak; we regret its accurate measurement is not given in the catalogue. The colour and graining of the wood, and of the root-portion especially, are eminently beautiful, and render it invaluable for ornamental and cabinet-work. 'En 1850, la

statistique forestière évaluait à 26,000 hectares l'étendue des massifs compactes des peuplements d'Olivier. En tenant compte des bosquets dispersés, des broussailles et des nouvelles constatations, on peut sans crainte doubler et tripler cette surface.

"Orange, wood hard, of large size; elm (*Ulmus campestris*), attains a very large size; date-palm, its wood difficult to work on account of the inextricable crossing of the fibres; is hard and very solid when dry, durable, and said to be incorruptible; excellent for 'tabletterie.' White poplar, called *Sassafras*. Phillyrea (*P. latifolia*), *Pinus halapensis*, *P. maritima*, and *P. pinea*; eastern plane (*Platanus orientalis*), of large dimensions and hard wood; *Prunus spinosa*; castor-oil plant, soft and worthless; *Salix caprea* and *S. fragilis*; *Sorbus domestica*; sumac (*Rhus pentaphyllum* and *R. coriaria*); the wood of the R. Tezera is said to be harder than these. *Tamarix Africana* and *T. Gallica*; terebinth tree, wood hard, heavy, and resinous; *Thuja*; under this name (*Thuja articulata*, Vahl, *Callitris quadrivalvis*, Vent.) are exhibited splendid samples of a most beautiful wood, 'Le plus beau d'ébénisterie connue.' This *Thuja* is common throughout Algeria, most so when proceeding from east to west. Though but recently restored to notice, it was highly prized by the ancients. According to Pliny, the 'Citrus' (such was its name among the Romans) was so rare that tables made of it were hardly to be procured even at fabulous prices; and the females who were reproached with extravagance in dress and ornaments, retorted on their husbands with the prices which their lords had paid for tables of citrus wood. Cicero gave the sum of a million of sesterces, equal to 250,000 francs, or 10,000£ for one of them, and still larger prices are cited by Pliny, especially for one table which had belonged to the Moorish king, Juba. The root, with its knots, afforded the most prized portions; and though it was generally used for inlaying and veneering, the Emperor Commodus possessed also vases and cups made of it.

"The peculiar qualities of this wood explain its value and fashion. None is so full of spots, satiny lustre, and variegated veins; it takes a lovely and perfect polish, and the hues pass from deep fiery red to those of the pinkest mahogany; and these tints are permanent, not fading like rosewood, or becoming black like mahogany. It combines so many elegant qualities, that the Parisian cabinet-makers unanimously prefer the *Thuja* wood to every other. Experiments in cultivating the tree on a large scale are now proceeding in parts of Orleanville, under the superintendence of M. Lambert de Roissy. All the samples exposed, and the numerous manufactured articles exhibited on the ground-floor and in the gallery of the 'Annexe,' bear testimony to the correctness of this high character of the '*Thuja*' wood of Algeria. In Mr. C. Holtzappfel's excellent 'Descriptive Catalogue of the Woods commonly Employed in this Country for the Mechanical and Ornamental Arts, 1843,' the following is the only mention made of this wood. Under the article 'Arbor vite,' it is said, 'The different sorts of *Thuja* are called arbor vite, and are chiefly found in North America or China. *T. articulata*, a native of the north coast of Africa, is the *Alerce* of the Moors, and was employed in the wood-work of the mosque, since the cathedral, of Cordova.' The plant is now called *Callitris quadrivalvis*, and it yields the gum Sandarach of commerce."

The remainder of the 'Notes' consists of a catalogue of useful mechanical apparatus, with descriptions by Captain Fowke, and some valuable pharmaceutical and chemical products are pointed out by Sir Joseph Olliffe. In the Printing Department, Mr. Charles Knight calls special attention to a dictionary of Latin, English, French, and Siamese, owing to the disposition lately evinced by the King of Siam to cultivate relations with England; and gives the following interesting description of the great book-making establishment of MM. Mame and Co., of Tours, which appears to rival in magnitude, and excel in workmanship, the colossalfactory of the Brothers Harper, of New York:

"The specimens of Mame and Co., of Tours, and the details of their establishment which they have addressed to the members of the Jury, suggest some important considerations with regard to the attainment of an extreme point of cheapness in the manufacture of books. I use the word 'manufacture' advisedly; for we have no example in Great Britain of a large factory in which, with the exception of the paper, all the processes connected with printing and binding, including the arts of the designer and engraver, are carried through, for the production of about eight hundred different volumes, varying from the small Prayer-Book, bound, for thirty-five centimes, to the folio Local History, splendidly illustrated, for one hundred francs.

"In the London Exhibition of 1851, Mame and Co. received a Prize Medal 'for the extreme cheapness and great variety of books printed, bound, and published by them.' An examination of their catalogue not only shows the 'great variety' of their publications, but points out, in the very nature of their works, that the 'extreme cheapness' is attained by the continued production of large impressions, for a constant and universal demand. The nearest parallel case in England is that of the production of Bibles, Testaments, and Prayer-Books, by the Universities and the King's printer. But cheap as these privileged English books now are, they can scarcely compare with the 'Liturgeries' and 'Offices' produced by Messrs. Mame, especially those which are luxuriously bound. The 'Missale Romanum,' in folio, beautifully printed, is sold, unbound, for 11 francs; the most exquisite binding in morocco, fully gilt, adds only 20 francs to the price. The 'Paroissien Romain,' 32mo, a very nicely-printed volume of 636 pages, solidly bound in black sheep, marbled edges, costs only 80 centimes (8d.); the same in calf, gilt edges, 1 franc 20 cents. (1s.); and in morocco, 1 franc 70 cents. (1s. 5d.) The demand for 'Livres d'Offices' and 'Livres de Piété' is, of course, constant and universal; and of these Messrs. Mame have fifty-one different works and editions. Some are remarkable for the clearness of their type; others, for the beauty of their embellishments. The 'Paroissien Romain Illustré' has coloured borders to every page, with a different vignette border to each division of the services; bound in morocco, with gilt edges, it costs 3 francs 25 cents. (2s. 8d.) In the catalogue of Messrs. Mame there are 720 works, exclusive of their 'Offices.' They consist, for the most part, of various services, devoted to education and primary instruction. Here, again, is a class of books in universal demand. We have 'Bibliothèque Illustrée des Petits Enfants,' 'Bibliothèque de la Jeunesse Chrétienne,' 'Bibliothèque des Ecoles Chrétaines,' 'Bibliothèque des Petits Enfants,' and 'Bibliothèque de l'Enfance Chrétienne'; each of these Bibliothèques contains several series, at various prices, from 3 francs to 10 cents. the volume; some neatly bound in paper, some tawdry. The greater portion of the books belong to history and geography; others are standard works of fiction. In the 'Bibliothèque de la Jeunesse Chrétienne,' we may take as a specimen a translation of 'Robinson Crusoe,' in 12mo, with twenty-four admirable woodcuts, each the size of the page, two volumes at 75 cents. each. We have nothing so beautifully printed at such a price. We must notice, however, that the figures we have given represent the whole-sale cost.

"Without knowing the rate of wages at Tours, we must be satisfied to conclude that a great deal of this extreme cheapness is produced by the use of the most improved mechanical processes, and by the most perfect division of labour. It appears that twenty cylindrical printing-machines are employed, producing 15,000 volumes a day, of ten sheets, or 150,000 sheets. This is about the English rate of 100/- an hour. A volume bound in morocco is stated to pass through eighty hands. The number of work-people employed in this factory amounts to twelve hundred; and we may assume that a large proportion are women and children; for it is stated that 'the workshops, surrounded with gardens,

are kept in winter at an equal temperature, combine all the elements of salubrity, and offer to the numerous children who therein work, without fatigue, more healthful shelter than the paternal home.'

The Paris Universal Exhibition presents most valuable suggestions for the merchant, manufacturer, and workman; and the British Jurors are able, and, doubtless, equally willing to assist the Board of Trade in giving them speedy publicity, but their notes had better be reserved for publication in a substantial and well-matured form.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

A PLEASING and honourable reminiscence in English literature and history is the appeal made by Dr. Johnson in behalf of the granddaughter of Milton, in 1750. In that year it became known that a Mrs. Elizabeth Foster, the only surviving branch of the family of the poet, was in great poverty. In spite of his strong abhorrence of Milton's political views, Dr. Johnson, as a man of letters and an Englishman, was proud of him, and took zealous interest in the success of the charity. A performance of *Comus* being arranged at Drury Lane for her benefit, Dr. Johnson wrote the well-known prologue, which was spoken by Garrick. He also addressed a letter to the 'General Advertiser,' which was printed on the day before the performance, and is given by Boswell in the Life. In this letter he said, 'An opportunity now offers for almost every individual to secure the praise of paying a just regard to the illustrious dead, united with the pleasure of doing good to the living. To assist industrious indigence, struggling with distress and debilitated by age, is a display of virtue, and an acquisition of happiness and honour.' Two appeals of a similar nature have this week been made in 'The Times,' in behalf of persons in whom men of letters cannot but take deep interest, and whom Englishmen will feel it a privilege and honour to assist in their indigence and distress. One is made by the venerated Walter Savage Landor in behalf of James Defoe, the great grandson of the author of 'The History of the Plague,' of 'Robinson Crusoe,' and 'The True-born Englishman.' When Mr. Forster wrote his life of Daniel Defoe, he announced the fact that there was still living at Kennington a lineal descendant of Defoe, in deep and uncomplaining poverty. The late Judge Taltaford made an appeal in his behalf, but without much fruit, and now when the old man is in his 78th year, Mr. Landor again brings his case before the public, let us hope with more satisfactory results. The other appeal is in behalf of the two surviving daughters of one who is thus mentioned in Dr. Johnson's last will:—'I also give and bequeath to my godchildren, the son and daughter of Mauritius Lowe, the painter, each of them 100/- of my Stock in the Three per Cent. Consolidated Annuities, to be disposed of by and at the discretion of my executors in the education or settlement in the world of them my said legatees.' After stating what is known of the fortunes, or rather misfortunes of the Lowe family, the document, written evidently by Thomas Carlyle, and signed also by Charles Dickens and John Forster, thus proceeds, —'The goddaughter mentioned in the will still survives among us, a highly respectable old person, now in her 78th year, with all her faculties about her, living with her younger sister, aged 72, the only other remnant of the family, in a house they have long occupied—No. 5, Minerva-place, New-cross, Deptford—with numerous memorials of Johnson in their possession, which vividly bring home to us, and present as a still living fact, their connexion with that great man. They have lived there for many years in rigorous though not undignified poverty, which now, by some unforeseen occurrences, threatens to become absolute indigence in these their final years.' Among the venerable relics in their little parlour at Deptford is 'the fir desk (capable of being rigorously authenticated as such) upon which Samuel Johnson wrote the English Dictionary.' "The elder sister still recollects in a dim but ineffaceable manner, the big, awful figure

of Samuel Johnson, to whom she was carried shortly before his death, that he might lay his hand on her head and give her his blessing; her awe and terror very great on the occasion." "Samuel Johnson is such a literary man as probably will not appear again in England for a very great length of time. His works and his life, looked at well, have something in them of heroic, which is of value beyond most literature, and much beyond all money and money's worth to the nation which produced him. That same 'English Dictionary,' written on the poor fir desk above spoken of, under sternly memorable circumstances, is itself a proud possession to the English nation, and not in the philological point of view alone. Such a dictionary has an *architectonic* quality in it; and for massive solidity of plan, manful correctness and fidelity of execution, luminous intelligence, rugged honesty and greatness of mind pervading every part of it, is like no other. This, too, is *Cathedral of St. Paul's*, after its sort; and stands there for long periods, silently reminding every English soul of much that is very necessary to remember. Samuel Johnson himself is far beyond the reach of our gratitude. He left no child or representative of any kind to claim pensions or distinctions from us; and here, by accident, thrown upon the waste sea-beach, is something venerably human with Johnson's mark still legible upon it; Johnson, as it were, mutely bequeathing it to us, and to what humanity and loyalty we have, for the few years that may still be left. Our humble request, in the name of literature withal is, that the English nation will, in some small adequate way, respond to this demand of Johnson's." The document of which we have quoted part, was sent as a memorial to Her Majesty's Government, signed by distinguished names, Hallam, Stephen, Samuel Wilberforce, Carlyle, Dyce, Procter, Eastlake, Forster, Macaulay, Thackeray, Tennyson, Fonblanche, Dickens, Bulwer Lytton, Gleig, Owen, Murchison, Disraeli, and Dean Milman. Lord Palmerston, in reply, stated that there was no fund available for such a purpose, but sent 100*l.* from another unnamed source. Those who have taken charge of the charity therefore now appeal to the public for 40*l.* to purchase an annuity of 30*l.* for the joint lives of these aged persons. The array of literary and eminent men may appear needlessly imposing for so small an object, but it may be well to remember that all the efforts of those who made the appeal for Milton's granddaughter, joined to the allurements of Johnson's pen and Garrick's performance, procured only 130*l.*—('Boswell,' vol. i. p. 269, ed. 1835.) Let us hope that the present appeals will prove at once the readiness of charity, and the honour in which Englishmen hold the memory of Defoe and Johnson.

We learn from Paris that all the efforts that have been made by interested parties to obtain a prolongation of the Universal Exhibition have failed. The closing remains definitely fixed for the 15th of this month, and the removal of goods has already commenced. If we are correctly informed, the Government was very near complying with the demand for a prolongation; but the objections of some foreign commissioners and exhibitors induced it, at the last moment, to abstain from doing so. As already stated, the closing is to be made with a good deal of pomp by the Emperor in person. Touching the distribution of medals in the Fine Arts department, we believe that nothing is yet definitely decided; but we are assured that it is quite certain that England will obtain one of the six or seven gold medals of honour, and Belgium another. The recipient of the gold medal for England will probably, we hear, be Sir E. Landseer. The 'medals of honour' were originally to have been only five in number, but they will probably be increased to seven or eight.

The twelfth volume of M. Thiers' 'History of the Consulate and the Empire' has appeared within the last few days at Paris, and the two concluding ones are announced for publication before the end of the year. The volume just produced resumes the history of the Empire in April, 1810,

and brings it down to May, 1811; and the principal topics dwelt on are the continental blockade; the squabbles between Napoleon and the Pope; the secret and fruitless negotiations with England; the affairs of Holland; the annexation of that kingdom to France; the war in Spain and the situation and affairs of that country; the proceedings in Portugal; the union of the Hanse towns and part of Hanover to the French empire; the dissensions with Russia, and preparations for war with her; the siege of Badajoz; and the disgrace of Massena. All these subjects, and many others dependent on them, are treated by M. Thiers with all his wonted lucidity and fascinating gracefulness of style. Prefixed to the volume is an address to the reader of some forty pages, in which the eminent historian, after some very palpable sneers at M. de Lamartine, explains his views as to the manner in which history ought to be written—views, by the way, which, though eloquently expressed, are not very remarkable for novelty—and gives a brief review of the character of Napoleon, in the course of which he touches on the danger of despotism, and declares himself, notwithstanding all that has taken place in France, as firmly attached to liberty as ever.

Our readers will learn with regret that the London Horticultural Society find it necessary to reduce their establishment at Chiswick, and to announce that the exhibitions of fruit and flowers, which furnished so interesting a series of fete-days, and excited so honourable a competition amongst gardeners and amateurs, are to be henceforth discontinued. The Society will, of course, be ably fully to maintain its original efficiency, confining its operations to the encouragement of horticulture by rewards, to the publication of transactions, to exhibitions in London, to the distribution of seeds, &c., obtained from its correspondents, and to the maintenance of a small and inexpensive garden; and public feeling will, doubtless, be more identified with it as a scientific society. We still think that one or two exhibitions might be given to non-members during the season in London with profit to the Society, and trust that the idea is not wholly abandoned.

The Crystal Palace Company have issued invitations for a meeting this day at three o'clock, to open an exhibition, which has been formed in one of the industrial courts of the collections of works of art belonging to the Arundel Society. They consist of drawings, tracings, and sculptural models, principally of the mediæval period, of the highest interest, and some observations will be offered on the subject on this occasion by Mr. Digby Wyatt. A catalogue of the collection has been printed, illustrated in part with some characteristic wood engravings, from Sir Charles Eastlake's edition of Kugler's 'Hand-book of Painting,' and from the 'Account of the Elgin Marbles,' by Sir Henry Ellis.

The new planet recently discovered by M. Luther, of the Observatory of Bilk, near Dusseldorf, has received the name of *Fides*, and that discovered by M. Goldschmidt, the amateur astronomer of Paris, that of *Atalanta*. Formal notifications to that effect were made in the last sitting of the Academy of Sciences of Paris. It was the Mayor and Municipality of Dusseldorf who were allowed to name M. Luther's planet, and M. Le Verrier, Director of the Observatory of Paris, who was requested to give a designation to that of M. Goldschmidt.

A map of the roads and the country between Odessa, Nicolaief, Perekop, Simphéropol, and Sebastopol, compiled from Russian maps, in the possession of the Royal Geographical Society, from the Admiralty charts, and other documents, has been published by Mr. Stanford. The scale is seven miles to one inch. Kinburn Bay, Kherson Bay, the Gulf of Perekop, and the whole sea coast from Odessa to Balaklava, are given. There are also side maps, on a larger scale, of Odessa and Nicolaief. It is the most complete map of these parts that has been published in this country.

There is a proposal before the Government, we understand, though scarcely yet in official form,

for the endowment of chairs of Constitutional and of International Law in the University of Edinburgh. The object in itself is good, and Edinburgh is the fittest place for the institution of such chairs by national authority, as there is no school of learning to which students of so many different classes of society, and of so many foreign countries annually resort.

At the last meeting of the Geographical Society of Paris, Dr. Squier, of the United States, presented a plan of the gigantic railway destined to unite the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. A letter from Dr. Barth, the African traveller, was read: it bore testimony to the exactitude of René Caillé's account of his visit to Timbuctoo. At one time serious doubts were entertained that Caillé, who was a Frenchman, really ever had been to Timbuctoo, and Dr. Barth himself shared them. But they exist no longer; and Dr. Barth, for his part, handsomely makes an *amende honorable* to the French traveller. It was in April, 1828, that Caillé arrived at the African city, his starting-place having been Sierra Leone; and he endured frightful privations and sufferings on the way. He is said to have been the first European who ever penetrated the mysterious Timbuctoo, and his stay in it only lasted fourteen days. Hardships, combined with the bad effects of the awful climate, produced disease, and he returned to France in a dying state, and died shortly after. He was only thirty-nine years of age when he was cut off. An account of his expedition was published at Paris.

The project of the submarine telegraph between Newfoundland and Cape Breton is not abandoned, and hopes are entertained not only of completing the communication next summer, but of recovering the broken cable, the end of which is attached to the shore.

Prince Bonaparte, in the last sitting of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, presented the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' of Mr. G. R. Gray, and described it as a work 'henceforth indispensable to every one who may occupy himself seriously with Ornithology.' The Prince also gave an account of the ornithological observations made by him in his recent visit to this country.

Two characteristic lithograph portraits of Mr. Russell, the war correspondent of 'The Times,' in the Crimea, have appeared, the one by Macguire, representing him in marching order, before starting for the scene of his literary labours, the other from a photograph by Fenton, in which he appears in camp, admirably expressive both as a portrait, and as an illustration of the way of life of men of letters as well as of arms at the seat of war.

On Friday evening the Lord Mayor entertained at dinner, at the Mansion House, his brethren of the Society of Noviomagus, an eccentric antiquarian club, composed of Fellows of the London Society of Antiquaries.

Mr. O. Hudson is appointed lecturer on ornament at Marlborough House, since Mr. Wornum's promotion to the curatorship of the National Gallery.

A new story, by the author of 'Margaret Maitland,' entitled 'Lillie's Leaf,' is to be shortly published by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett.

M. Jullien makes the welcome announcement of a series of concerts at Covent Garden Theatre, to commence on Monday, the 5th inst. In addition to the standard works of classical composers, for introducing a taste for which among the English people M. Jullien deserves great thanks and honour, various novelties are promised. Among these are:—A grand fantasia from *Il Trovatore*; a grand fantasia from Verdi's last new opera, *Les Vêpres Siciliennes*; new valse, 'La Rose et la Violette'; new valse, 'Donna Mobile'; new valse, 'The Belle of the Village'; new quadrille, 'Le Quadrille Francais'; besides several other new valses, polkas, Schottisches, Varsovianas, &c., and a new grand descriptive quadrille, entitled 'The Fall of Sebastopol.' Madame Gassier, already justly a favourite with London audiences, from her admirable performances last season, is to appear on the opening night. The usual attention has

been given to the efficiency of the orchestra, and to the arrangements for the entertainment and comfort of the audience; including a collection of newspapers and periodicals of all nations and tongues, greater probably than can be found in any public reading-room in the kingdom.

Madame Lind Goldschmidt (in reply to an application addressed to her by Mrs. S. C. Hall) has expressed an intention to visit London, for the special purpose of giving a concert in aid of the proposed Nightingale Fund. We learn also that she is to give a benefit shortly at Lausanne, for the relief of the families who suffered by the earthquakes this spring in Switzerland. She has been residing lately at Geneva.

A new opera, by the diligent Adolphe Adam, called *Le Houzard de Berchini*, in two acts, has been produced at the Opéra Comique at Paris, but our letters do not speak very highly of it. It is described as wanting in originality, and as being of very flimsy texture indeed. The overture, however, is said to be not without merit.

An Italian periodical says that the total number of Italian musical theatres in the world is 117, and that of them only 95 are in Italy; the rest being in Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, the Ionian Islands, England, France, Holland, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Africa, and America.

Of the new drama produced last Saturday at the Haymarket Theatre, *The Beginning and the End*, our notice must be brief, as it is not pleasant to dwell on so dismal a subject. Vice and crime are presented in this play in native coarseness, without the veil of romance which in scenes of distress even far more tragic can permit emotions of pleasure. An old rich miser, an expectant and disappointed legatee, a nephew in whose favour the miser's will is made, a female forger and daredevil, *Hester Lambert* (Miss Cushman), who incites her less daring husband to courage in crime, *Mat Hall*, a blackleg of the town, and other characters to match, form the personages of the drama, which aspires to delineate the workings of Macbeth-like passion in common life, but excites only feelings of the Newgate Calendar type—remembrances of *George Barnwell*, *Mr. and Mrs. Manning*, and other criminals, fictitious or real, being unpleasantly suggested. The acting of the piece is good, and Miss Cushman's exertions in representing *Hester* are great, but the piece will afford pleasure only to those who like scenes of melodramatic horror even when enacted by persons who would be repulsive in daily life. The piece seems to have been withdrawn, as the latter evenings of this week have witnessed performances, better given at the Haymarket than at any other theatre in our day, of *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, with Miss Cushman as *Romeo*.

At Drury Lane, a new farce, *Twenty Minutes with a Tiger*, gives scope for an amusing display of the lively acting and rattling tongue of Charles Mathews, in the character of a wine-merchant traveller, who, on the strength of a bet with some fellow-bagnmen, beards a testy old nabob in his den, first torments and then tames him, and not only contrives to get a good order of wine out of him, but marries his rich and pretty daughter. Mr. Young's representation of the growing old Indian is also very good. The performance of *The Critic*, last Saturday, at Drury Lane, is only to be noticed from the peculiarity of Mr. C. Mathews sustaining, as no other actor could, the parts both of *Sir Fretful Plagiary* and of *Puff*. At the Princess's Theatre, *The Critic* was also performed last Saturday, with Mr. Walter Lacy as *Puff*. Mr. Lacy sustains with care and correctness whatever part he undertakes, and in *Puff* he displayed a tact and humour which surprised those who have only seen him in more formal and imposing characters. Mr. Frank Mathews, who appeared as *Sir Fretful Plagiary*, and as the old cobler, *Crépin*, in the *Wonderful Woman*, is a valuable acquisition to Mr. Kean's company. At the Adelphi this week, *The White Horse of the Peppers*, *A Morning Tale*, and other pieces, are given, adapted to Mr. Hueson, Mr. and Mrs. Keeley, and the portion of the company now on

the boards. Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Murray are at present at Edinburgh. Mr. Anderson, of legerdemain celebrity, has taken Covent Garden for his performances after Christmas, commencing on boxing-night.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—*Sept. 15th.*—Dr. Dauweny, F.R.S., read several extracts of a letter from the Rev. A. Farrar, of Queen's College, Oxford, on the late eruption of Vesuvius. Mr. Farrar stated that for a period of three years from 1847 the volcano manifested symptoms of restlessness, and on one occasion, Dec. 1849, sent forth a small stream of lava, interesting from the fact of leucitic crystals occurring in it analogous to those of the little stream of 1845. But in Feb. 1850 a violent eruption took place from three craters which formed on the south-east of the great cone, each above the other in a vertical line from the summit to the foot. In fact, owing to the abundance of lava, it might almost be said that a great fissure opened from the summit nearly to the Atrio del Cavallo. The stream flowed along the Atrio at a point a little to the north of the stream of 1834, and then turning south, when pressed back by the ancient lava of Monte Somma, it flowed over the current of 1834, in the direction of Ottajano and Bosco Reale, destroying much of the fine oak of the forest. The stream continued to flow for three days. Such was the history until the present eruption, which might be said to have commenced last December, by the sudden giving way of a portion of the cone of Vesuvius, at a distance of perhaps one hundred yards north of the northern of the two craters formed by the eruption of 1850, and at a very little distance below the level of the summit—in fact, just at the point where Portantina bearers were accustomed to deposit the persons whom they carried up. This crater, or hole (for it had never vomited anything but gas), still existed, though now filled up with débris to within a depth of one hundred feet. Mr. Farrar felt a peculiar interest in this hole, in the hope (though one perhaps could hardly hope it at that height) that it would reveal the internal structure of the great cone, so as to throw light on the question of craters of elevation. Indeed, it did show the structure, but in a way which he was not prepared to expect. It showed successive layers of solidified lava of twenty feet in thickness each, with intercalated scoriaceous layers of perhaps five feet, looking, in short, much as layers of limestone and clay appear in some of the oolitic districts of England. But the thing which appeared to him curious was, that he failed to detect any deviation from horizontality in the layers; there seemed to be no slope in them. Must this be accounted for by supposing them to be the accumulations thrown back again into the crater during successive eruptions, and not the sections of the tops of the streams which had commenced to run down over the edge of the crater? Be this as it might, he wished it to be understood, that as every part of the hole was visible, they could not explain this horizontal character, as the lavas of Monte Somma might be explained, by supposing that they were viewing in a section taken at a right angle a case of quinquaevens dip. The principal epochs of eruption remarked were May 1st and May 5th, when the sounds of the mountain also altered into periodic detonations; and May 9th, when there arose a fresh stream, which flowed over the other, which by this time, having passed through the Fossa Vetrara, had tumbled, by a second cataract into the Fossa Faraone, and had meandered through the plain to a point near Cercola, having passed between the two villages of St. Sebastiano and Massa. This new stream turned to the west after reaching the level of the Campagna near St. Sebastiano, and flowed in the direction of the sea. Besides these great epochs, there had been noted a periodic law of increase about every six hours—a generalisation, he feared, founded on an insufficient induction. Yet though there were these tides in the current, the lava never ceased to flow for twenty-nine days. Mr. Farrar proceeded to state some

of the circumstances which preceded or accompanied the eruption, and afterwards those which marked its decline. The most interesting of these was that the magnets of the Observatory situated on the mount were much disturbed both before the eruption and during its existence, appearing to follow its phases.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—British Pomological (to compare the merits and qualities of fruits).
— Royal Institution, 2 p.m.—(General Meeting.)
— Institute of British Architects, 8 p.m.
Tuesday.—Linnean, 8 p.m.
Saturday.—Medical, 8 p.m.

* * * The Secretaries of the Learned Societies are requested to continue to forward their Cards of Meetings.

VARIETIES.

Statue of Wren.—A correspondent 'W.' urges that, as there can now be little doubt of the vacant space near St. Paul's being left open, we should erect there a statue of Wren. 'We can boast [he says] of statues in various parts of the metropolis,—some to great men, some to mere notabilities of a day, but not one have we of any of our great masters in art! Could we begin with a more fit subject than the '*conditor hujus urbis!*' Could any place be better adapted for a statue in his honour than one in close proximity with the greatest effort of his genius? Such of your readers as have been at Florence cannot but have been struck with the effect of the statue of Brunelleschi, on the Piazza del Duomo, the plan of his *opus magnum* on his knee, and comparing it, as it were, with the reality. Could we not do something in the same spirit? On the pedestal there might be bas-reliefs of remarkable incidents in Wren's life, and most especially would I suggest as one subject the old man's annual pilgrimage to the scene of his triumph.'—*Builder*.

Last Days of an Oriental Traveller.—Mr. Bartlett's last, and fatal, visit to the East was undertaken with the express design of inspecting the scenery and artificial remains of the Seven Churches. He left England in July; and, proceeding direct to Smyrna, began his researches under many painful disadvantages. The country was afflicted by a severe pestilence, and infested by bands of robbers, both of which had to be set at defiance, before he could start on his perilous enterprise. At last, having accomplished, with great personal risk and fatigue, the chief objects of his research, he took his final leave of that 'hallowed ground,' returned to Smyrna, and there embarked for Marseilles, on board the French mail-steamer *Egyptus*. At Malta he went ashore for a few hours—renewed his acquaintance with some of the principal objects of that remarkable island, partook of some light repast, and then returned on board. Owing to his previously exhausted state of health, this effort to see much in a few hours had been too great: but thinking that some additional refreshment would relieve the sense of fatigue under which he laboured, he sat down to table with his fellow-passengers, partook of the evening meal, and entered into conversation with apparent cheerfulness. He then retired; and, with symptoms of increasing debility, soon betook himself to his berth—but it was not to find the relief for which he longed. Becoming more and more restless as the morning advanced, the medical officer was called to his side, and found him much excited—and expressing his conviction that the hand of death was upon him. The surgeon did what he could to relieve the urgent symptoms; and for a little while the means employed, on the instant, appeared to take effect. But the hopes thus awakened were soon baffled, and finally extinguished, by the symptoms of absolute prostration under which he was gradually, but visibly, sinking. He never rallied: and at length calmly expired at eight o'clock in the evening of the 13th of September. His death took place in the presence of Colonel Onslow, of the Fusilier Guards; Mr. Purdie, Queen's Messenger; and the surgeon of

the vessel : who, after taking a note of the personal effects of the deceased, made preparations for the last solemn scene! Early next morning, the British passengers and the officers of the ship formed themselves into a little circle at the stern of the vessel. The Aide-de-camp of Lord De Ros —then on board—read the impressive service for Burial at Sea. This being concluded, the remains of our lamented friend, enclosed in a hasty shroud, were slowly raised by the hands of strangers—then lowered at a given signal, and consigned to their ocean grave.—*Prospectus of the Bartlett Testimonial.*

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